



HEARTACHE AS MEDALS STOLEN

Report by Richard Guttridge

"THEY are the few items she has got that were her father's."

The words of Karen Cotterill, whose 94-year-old mother has been left heartbroken after two First World War medals, which were awarded to her father, were stolen during a raid on her home in Stourbridge.

The great-grandmother was left devastated after burglars took the medals, which hung in a frame in her dining room. They even took the soldier's photograph.

Her father Arthur Hogbin died when she was just two-years-old, so the medals were very special to her. Her daughter Karen Cotterill said: "She was shaken, upset and angry. She

has got no memories of him. The photo and the medals were pride of place.

"We're all really upset. How can people take medals? They are probably worth about 30 quid. You can get replacements but it wouldn't be the same."

A pocket watch, carried by Mr Hogbin during the war, was also stolen along with an 18ct gold ruby and diamond engagement ring and a watch, which was a birthday present from her late husband.

Sad

Mrs Cotterill, 62, has now called on whoever stole them to return them.

She said: "I want them for mum's peace of mind, if they could leave them somewhere, anywhere they could be found. They are the few items she has got that were her father's. For them to be stolen is very sad."

Mr Hogbin was awarded the British War Medal and Allied Victory Medal in recognition of his service during the First World War. He was a volunteer who served in Greece with The Royal East Kent Regiment and later lived in Smethwick and worked at Rolfe Street Baths.

His daughter arrived home on November 3 to find she had been burgled and the precious medals taken – just a week before Remembrance Day.

Police have launched an investigation and call on anyone with information to contact them on 101. Pc Drew Turner said: "We are determined to get these items back to the owner. The medals are of great sentimental value. She is desperate to have them returned."

● Remembrance Day pictures – page 20

ALL STARS VS ROBINS IN MAYOR'S CHARITY MATCH



Wolves All Stars chairman Mel Eves, Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif and Dudley Town FC chairman Stephen Austin

THE Mayor of Dudley is urging football fans to turn out for a charity match which will see Dudley Town take on Wolves All-Stars.

It will be hosted by the Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif who will be donning his football boots to join with the action on the pitch.

The match will kick-off at 2.30pm on Sunday, November 27, at The Dell Stadium in Bryce Road, Brierley Hill.

Proceeds from the day will be split between the Mayor's nominated charities, which are Diabetes UK Dudley Group, Dudley CIL and

Friends of Alfie Johnson, as well as Dudley Town Football Club's own nominated charity, The Black Country Fibromyalgia Support Group.

Chairman of Wolves All Stars Mel Eves said he hoped people would turn out to show their support.

"This is a chance for former players to give something back to community to thank those people who turned out to see them play.

"We are all looking forward to it and it's all for a good cause so we hope as many people can come as possible," he added.

Councillor Hanif said: "I would like to thank Dudley Town FC for organising this match. It is very much appreciated and I hope we can raise lots of money for such worthy causes. I would encourage people to come along and have a great afternoon of entertainment."

Tickets cost £5 for adults and £3 for under-16s and seniors. Children under 10 go free. Tickets can be reserved by calling Steve Edwards 07858 876649 and collected from The Black Country T-Shirt Shop, Castle Street, Dudley or Pure Gym, Brierley Hill.

CRIME

£2,000 reward in hunt for suspect

A £2,000 reward has been offered to catch the prime suspect in the murder of 24-year-old Mansoor Mahmood in Brierley Hill.

A manhunt was launched after Mr Mahmood was stabbed. Niron Parker-Lee, 19, has been named as the prime suspect and the public has been warned that he is dangerous. Mr Mahmood was knifed at 4.45pm in High Street on October 15.

Charity Crimestoppers is offering the reward for information that leads to a conviction. Contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

● Inquest opens – page 2

SHOPPING

New car park opens for Christmas rush

A NEW Dudley town centre pay-and-display car park has opened ahead of the Christmas rush.

The car park, which has 90 spaces and prices starting from 70p, has been created in Tower Street, on the site of the former Mahoe banqueting suite.

Regeneration boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "The new Tower Street car park is in a great central location for people visiting the town and we're really pleased that we have been able to open it earlier than planned."

HOUSING

Football hero's home goes on the market

THE house where Dudley football legend Duncan Edwards lived as a boy has been put up for sale.

The terraced property in Elm Road, on the town's Priory estate, has an asking price of £120,000.

England and Manchester United star Edwards spent the early part of his life at the house and would play football just a short distance away at Priory Park.

He was best known as one of the famous 'Busby Babes' Manchester United team, before he died of injuries sustained in the Munich air disaster in 1958

INSIDE

DANNY'S SECRET IS NOT SO DYER



PAGE 30

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2 CONTENTS

MARK ANDREWS	6
LETTERS	7
FOCUS ON TOWN CENTRE	10
OUT & ABOUT	22
THE FAST TICKET	25
PROPERTY	33
MOTORING	39
SPORT	47 & 48
CONTACT US	

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Inquest opens into stabbing death



Victim – Mansoor Mahmood

AN INQUEST has opened into a man who was stabbed to death in Brierley Hill.

Mansoor Mahmood, of Bague Walk, Brierley Hill, died in hospital after he staggered bleeding into a shop on Brierley Hill High Street just before 5pm on October 15.

An inquest in Oldbury heard the 24-year-old married man was a carer for his wife, Aisha Akhtar.

Police last week revealed their prime suspect as 19-year-old Niron Parker-Lee. The charity Crimestoppers is now offering a reward of up to £2,000 for information that leads to Parker-Lee's arrest.

Senior Coroner's Officer Joanne Stokes told the inquest a provisional cause of death had been given as a stab wound to Mr Mahmood's chest. A murder investigation is ongoing.

She added that there were a number of witnesses still to be seen and a second post-mortem had been carried out.

Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until December 19.

Any sightings of suspect Parker-Lee should be reported to police immediately on 999. The public are warned not to approach Parker-Lee.



Suspect – Niron Parker-Lee

Big Sam will not face a police investigation

DUDLEY-BORN former England boss Sam Allardyce will not be the focus of a criminal investigation into allegations of corruption in football.

Allardyce resigned as England manager following a sting operation by the Daily Telegraph in September, in which he was secretly filmed allegedly offering advice on how to circumvent rules on signing players.

The City of London Police have launched a criminal investigation into material gathered by the newspaper but say no arrests have yet been made.

A spokesman for the force's Economic Crime Directorate confirmed Allardyce was not part of the investigation.

The 62-year-old, who was born on the Old Park Farm estate and grew up a Wolves fan, said in a statement: "I welcome the confirmation that has come from City of London Police that I will not be the subject of a police investigation.

Confident

"I was always confident that this would be the case as there was no evidence against me."

He added: "I would like to thank my friends and family who have stood by me during this difficult period. "The position of England head coach is the pinnacle of any English manager's career and it was my dream job.

"While I am sad that my tenure came to an end early, I am nonetheless proud to have been chosen to manage the England football team and hope that today's confirmation from the police will give me the opportunity to move on."

Allardyce had always strongly denied any wrongdoing but the controversy surrounding the newspaper sting, and some other indiscreet remarks that were caught by the undercover reporters on a hidden camera, cost him his job with the national team after just 67 days.

The Telegraph's investigation also resulted in Barnsley's assistant manager Tommy Wright being sacked by the Championship club after he was filmed accepting a £5,000 payment to apparently help the fake investment firm place players at the club.

Expect the unexpected from Mayhem



Stephen Moran, of Halesowen, has written plays with a twist inspired by Roald Dahl's Tales of the Unexpected

MAYHEM Theatre Company will be performing three plays in the style of Roald Dahl's Tales of the Unexpected, which were a series of short stories broadcast on TV in the 1980s.

The one-act plays, which will be performed at Thorns Community College in Quarry Bank this month, are entitled Sandlewood Mouse, Future Past and The Monkey's Paw

Optician Stephen Moran, from Halesowen, wrote both Sandlewood

Mouse and Future Past and will be performing in the third play too.

"The plays are suitable for all the family, quite literally any age," said Mr Moran.

"In the Sandlewood Mouse a couple are selling a wooden mouse at auction. But the plot has an unexpected twist."

"Future Past I wrote about six years ago. A man goes to bed and dies, then he is born as a small kid growing up in the future in another country."

The plays will be performed at the Hardwicke Theatre at Thorns Community College, on Stockwell Avenue, from tonight (Thursday) until Saturday, 7.30pm nightly.

Tickets cost £7 and can be bought by calling 0121 559 6549.

The theatre group consists of around 25 members, of all ages.

"We are always on the lookout for new members - both acting and those helping out," said Stephen.

"We are particularly short of female members."

Himley Hall park's dog ban is now permanent

A DOG ban covering around a fifth of Himley Park is to be made permanent. Dudley Council faced a backlash from angry dog walkers over a decision to create a dog-free zone on a section of the popular site.

However, following a consultation, council bosses said 78 per cent of 251 people surveyed had backed the move and so the dog ban would stay for good.

The authority said the ban was brought into to create an area for families to enjoy themselves in an area free from dogs. That ban, which has been in place since February, covers the park's main entrance to the West Gate, running alongside the Himley Road. It covers around a fifth of the park. The rest of the park is still available to walk dogs.

But the changes have rankled with dog owners, many who have walked their pets on the park for years, and they demanded the ban be scrapped.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, planning and economic development boss, said: "We were prompted to introduce this dog free area in response to requests from park users who told us they felt uncomfortable bringing their families to the park because of concerns over dogs.

"The dog free area provides all visitors to Himley Hall and Park the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful park and its surroundings at their leisure in an area they feel comfortable.

"The survey results have made it quite clear that a majority of people are in favour of the scheme and want the zone to be a permanent feature of the park."

Tonnes of steel crush man's legs

A MAN suffered serious injuries after becoming trapped under several tons of steel on the back of a lorry in Dudley.

The victim's legs were crushed at an industrial premises on Deepdale Lane, Lower Gornal, at 1.45pm on Thursday.

Fire crews used specialist lifting equipment to free the man, who is in his 30s, and he was then taken to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

The air ambulance landed nearby but medics decided to take the man to hospital by road.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokeswoman Claire Brown said: "The man had sustained serious crush injuries to his legs and required advanced trauma care by ambulance staff and the doctor on scene to help treat and stabilise his condition."

Woman dies in Kingswinford fire

AN ELDERLY woman died in a house fire in Kingswinford on Monday night.

Emergency services were called to Catesby Drive, just before 11.30pm.

Police said an elderly woman was found dead at the scene and her death is not being treated as suspicious.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Mingle all the way on 5k Santa run

SANTAS are set to swap their big black boots for running shoes to raise cash for a Sedgley-based sight loss charity.

The Beacon Centre and Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) have joined forces to hold a Santa Run in West Park, Wolverhampton, on December 4. Participants can run, walk or jog around the 5km course, the only requirement is that they wear a Santa suit. The run takes place at 10.30am and £10 (£5 children for one lap) entry fee goes to the two charities. See www.beaconvision.org/Event/santa-run

Village pavilion could win funds

A PROJECT to create a new sports pavilion in a village near Stourbridge could get a further funding boost thanks to a supermarket campaign.

Hagley's village community project is in with a chance of winning £12,000 from Tesco's £12.5 million Bags of Help scheme, alongside Himley Cricket Club and Heronswood Primary School in Kidderminster.

Current dilapidated changing facilities on Hagley Playing Fields are set to be transformed after a grant for more than £20,000 from The Veolia Environmental Trust in September.

Mayor to attend Somme service

A COMMEMORATION service marking 100 years since the end of the Battle of the Somme will take place at Dudley Archives this weekend.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif will attend the event on Saturday at the archives on Tipton Road. It has been organised by the Friends of the Dudley Archives and Local History Service.

The short service of remembrance will begin at 11am with two minutes' silence.

300 jobs for student paramedics available

AMBULANCE chiefs in the West Midlands have launched a major recruitment drive to hire 300 student paramedics.

A careers event has been organised by West Midlands Ambulance Service alongside Sandwell College and Jobcentre Plus in the search for budding paramedics.

This will take place at the college's Central Campus, on Spon Lane, West Bromwich, between 10am and 2pm on Saturday, November 26.

Church Christmas fair

ST Peter's Church hosts its annual Christmas fair later this month.

The theme is the 'Magic of Christmas' and takes place at the church on Kent Street in Upper Gornal on November 28 from 10.30am until 2.30pm. There will be lunches, other refreshments and lots of stalls.

Homes and shops plan hits snag on brick firm

PROPOSALS for a major housing and shops development have been delayed after concerns were raised because it's near to a 200-year-old brickworks.

The outline application for up to 200 homes, shops, a gym and restaurants off Stalling's Lane in Kingswinford, had been recommended for approval by Dudley Council's development control committee. But fears that noise from existing business would result in complaints from the new residents has led to the decision being deferred for a site visit.

The proposed development land is on the site of Istock Brick Ltd, and also close to Pensnett Trading Estate.

Brick and tile firm Hinton Perry & Davenhill, is near to the site earmarked for homes.

Managing director Alex Patrick-Smith highlighted that Hinton Perry & Davenhill has been in existence there since 1805. "We don't want our business in the future to cause complaints," he said.

In a bid to alleviate potential issues over noise, it had been proposed that a 10 metre noise buffer be installed between Tansey Green Road and Stallings Lane.

This was not enough to quash the concerns of committee member Councillor David Stanley, who said: "Hinton Perry & Davenhill have been there for 211 years. It is something we should be proud to have in our borough, and I'm not prepared to risk the future of this company by putting houses around it."

Vans are taken to steal copper

BURGLARS used two stolen Dudley Council vans to steal copper from a factory in Kingswinford.

West Midlands Police said its team is investigating following the break-in at Clamason Industries.

It took place at the metal manufacturers in Gibbons Industrial Park, Gibbons Lane, overnight between Thursday and Friday.

A force spokesman said: "Offenders have gained access to Clamason Industries and while inside have used a fork-lift truck to remove copper coils. "They then forced open a secure gate using the truck and loaded the coils on to two transit vans stolen from nearby premises."

The spokesman said the vans had Dudley Council livery on them.

Travel award for living museum

THE Black Country Living Museum was among winners in the first School Travel Awards. It was announced as best museum visit at the ceremony at the Royal Garden Hotel in London, hosted by TV presenter Fiona Bruce.

Apartments to replace derelict pub



The Commercial Inn in Pensnett

A PUB in Pensnett which has stood derelict for a decade will be demolished to make way for an apartment block.

Dudley Council's development control committee voted unanimously in favour of the demolition of The Commercial Inn, at a meeting last week.

The vacant 1930s pub situated on the corner of Bromley and Mullett Street, will make way for nine apartments with parking to the front and rear.

The committee heard how the pub has been broken into and had become

a target of vandalism and anti-social behaviour since being boarded up.

A campaign by nearby residents saw around 1,500 people sign a petition, launched by the Corbyns Bromley Tenants and Residents Association, which called for the building to be redeveloped. Planning officers recommended the application be approved.

Addressing the committee at the planning meeting, representative for the Brockmoor and Pensnett ward, Councillor Judy Foster said: "You can see from the photographs what an eyesore this current, derelict, com-

mercial building is, and it has stood like that for 10 years. This application is very much supported by the overwhelming majority of residents."

During the ten years that the pub has been derelict, windows have been smashed and there have been multiple break-ins.

Residents' association member Michelle Morgan said: "There have been a few people who have tried to sell their homes nearby and the people coming to view them have asked how the long the pub is going to be in that condition."

Parents back lollipop lady at school crossing

CAMPAIGNERS have stepped up their opposition to Dudley Council's plans to scrap school crossing patrols.

A petition with nearly 10,000 signatures was handed in to the council and a protest of lollipop wardens and concerned schools and parents was due to take place outside Dudley Council on Tuesday this week. The consultation period came to an end last Thursday.

Parents from Wollescote Primary School decided to join lollipop lady Kim Nicholls on the busy Brook Holloway at its junction of Wynnall Lane to show their support.

Parent and former councillor Abdul Qadus, who is standing for re-election to the school's governing committee, said: "Traffic comes down this way very quickly. Brook Holloway, Ordinal Road and Careless Green are all very busy roads. The lady from highways said that they are putting children's safety as a priority but where in these plans is it a priority?"

Dudley Council currently funds the school crossing service but say reductions in funding from Government has prompted a review in bid to save £395,000. The council's proposals are for schools to instead fund the crossing sites which serve their pupils, while operation of the service would still be overseen by the local authority.

Funds

But Mr Qadus said that Wollescote Primary didn't have the funds to put this in place.

When the council's consultation with schools came to an end, only 26 out of 123 invited to take part had responded.

Schools were asked to rate options including ending the school crossing patrol completely; retaining a crossing patrol operated and managed by the council but costing schools an estimated £6,500 per crossing; or retaining a crossing patrol with staff who are directly employed and funded by schools with estimated fee of £1,500 payable to the council.

Of schools that responded, 76.9 per cent put ending the provision completely as their last choice. The results of the consultation will go to full council in March.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, last month said: I would remind people that it is a parent's or guardian's responsibility to ensure children arrive at school safely. The council does not have a statutory duty to provide the service. We will always take the safety of children very seriously. We have invested heavily in safer routes to schools which include fixed pedestrian crossing points."



Abdul Qadus with school crossing patrol warden Kim Nicholls, pupils and parents, at Brook Holloway

Drivers see red over traffic light chaos

TRAFFIC chaos at the busy Burnt Tree junction in Dudley is making motorists see red.

Drivers have been venting their anger over havoc at the junction on the Birmingham New Road after the signal controller for the traffic lights was damaged in a crash in the early hours of Wednesday last week.

Dudley Council says it could take two weeks to fix and tem-

porary lights have been put in place. But many drivers have reported that the temporary lights aren't working properly and long queues have formed throughout the week.

Police were called out to the scene of the collision at the junction near Tesco Express at 2.30am on November 9.

Omari McCalla-Jones, aged 26, of Windmill Crescent, Smeth-

wick, has been charged with failing to provide a specimen after the incident and is due to appear at Dudley magistrates' court on November 26.

Among the many despairing drivers taking to Twitter was Jack Malpass who said: "Avoid the Birmingham New Road."

National Express West Midlands made repeated updates on Twitter about bus delays.

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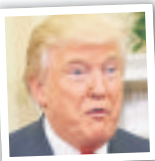
THE red remembrance poppy sold by the Royal British Legion has always been avoided by pacifists who prefer the white poppy of the Peace Pledge Union. The Legion's view, as explained on its website is: "We see no conflict in wearing the red poppy alongside the white poppy. We do ask that the items are not offered alongside each other however as this would confuse the public." So how odd that the Legion's online shop is selling not only the red poppy but also a white poppy.

MIND you, the Legion does some strange things with the hallowed poppy image. In its online shop you can buy a pet-food dish with alternating paw and poppy logos. Tacky does not begin to describe it.

A READER asks whether, in the great scheme of things, the US presidential elections and the poppy row with Fifa are more or less momentous than Toblerone re-designing its chocolate bar. We must let history be the judge.

THE most solid and, literally, concrete pledge of the Trump campaign was to build that wall on the Mexican border to keep illegal immigrants out. Yessir, it was gonna be wide and high – and Mexico would pay for it. Within a few hours of Trump's victory, his aides were advising us to think of it as a virtual, smart or metaphorical wall.

DONALD Trump's victory led to one of those hilarious pieces of pompous, self-regarding nonsense that make The Guardian such fun. Appealing for donations from the public, the newspaper, implored: "Help us hold the new US president to account, sort fact from fiction, amplify under-represented voices." Damn right.



Forget Isis, the Russians, the Chinese and home-grown terror. The one thing that Donald really dreads is a hissy column from Polly Toynbee.

AT any other time the deaths of seven passengers, with more than 50 others injured, would have been recognised as the national calamity it is. The Croydon tram disaster, overshadowed by the US election, is like a throwback to the days when rail crashes were common. After years of accident-free travel, has the system lowered its guard? It appears trams do not have the same speed-control system as trains. Why in heaven's name not?

PEOPLE tend to assume that those of us without mobiles are being awkward or trying to make some sort of Luddite point. Not at all. We just feel more comfortable not being part of the great global herd of heads-down phone slaves who spend every waking hour grazing on text messages. Go on, try it for a day.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Steaming ahead to major exhibition

THE Warley National Model Railway Exhibition takes place at Birmingham's NEC on November 26 and 27, and is the largest exhibition of its type anywhere in the UK.

Now in its 24th year, the exhibition occupies over 16,500 square feet in Hall 5 and will showcase more than 90 working model railway layouts. The exhibition will feature an exciting competition where the winner

will be invited to a private viewing of Pete Waterman's fabulous home layout.

Opening hours are, Saturday, 9.45am to 6pm and Sunday, 9.45am to 5pm and the event will be a must for every enthusiast and it is a fantastic day out for the family.

The layouts are from gauges Z to 1 and bigger, and there is a full size centrepiece steam locomotive.

There are more than 150 specialist trade stands as well as representatives from preservation and specialist interest societies.

Music mogul and railway enthusiast Pete Waterman will be there and is planning to broadcast his Saturday lunchtime radio WM show live from the NEC. Admission prices, starting with advance tickets are: adult one day £13.50; adult two day £23.50;

junior one day (Aged 5-16) £7.00; junior two day (aged 5-16) £12; family (two adults and three children) £36.

Admission prices on the door: adult one day £15; adult two day £26.50; junior one day (Aged 5-16) £8.50; junior two day (aged 5-16) £15; family £43.50.

For more information, visit the website: www.thewarleyshow.co.uk

New smart cameras catch 4,000 M6 drivers

ALMOST 4,000 motorists were caught speeding along the M6 by cameras on the new smart motorway between Oldbury and the M54.

The figures show that 3,916 speeding fines were issued over the 2014/15 financial year and almost £200,000 in fines were dished out on the five-mile stretch of road between junction eight and 10a. Wolverhampton councillor Steve Evans said those motorists who speed through the zone risked the fines, adding 'that's the law'.

The cabinet member for city environment said: "There was a parliamentary review which showed the existing places where they have these systems in place work very well.

"When they are implemented in a safe way, using the laybys for breakdowns, there is no issue for me. Speed limits are speed limits."

Walsall councillor Lee Jevons, portfolio holder for transport at Walsall Council, said: "Highways England and our engineers are working together to reduce congestion along this route by carrying out major improvements to junction 10 of the M6.

"The £64.5 million project will see new, widened bridges being built over the motorway, improvements to the motorway slip roads, installation of intelligent traffic signals, widening and modernisation of the nearby Bloxwich Lane junction and modification to the Black Country Route."

During the same 2014/15 period, more than 50,000 fixed penalties were issued across the UK, compared to 2,023 in the same period in 2010/11.

By Judith Hawkins

A MAN from Tipton died after choking on a pork scratching, just three weeks after getting the all-clear from lung cancer, an inquest heard.

James Bell, known as Jim to his family and friends, collapsed after going shopping in Dudley, on October 26.

Black Country Coroner's Court in Oldbury heard how a piece of food had become lodged in Mr Bell's windpipe. This was believed to be one of the pork scratchings he had just bought from a butchers shop.

It caused the 75-year-old former chef to collapse near the Cousins furniture store, and hit his head. Paramedics attended and found him in cardiac arrest. He was taken to Russells Hall Hospital, but subsequently died. Senior coroner's officer Stephen Binsley said: "CCTV from the scene was looked at by police. He is seen grabbing his chest, falling and unfortunately banging his head."

Hospital

He continued: "There was an occlusion in the airway and they had to use some forceps to remove it. He also suffered from a head injury from the fall."

The coroner heard that Mr Bell had gone out shopping while his wife was busy doing housework, including a trip to the butchers.

He left their home on Monins Avenue at around 10am, but when he hadn't arrived back more than three hours later she called 101 to report him missing. Paramedics had attended at around 11.30am.

A post-mortem identified that Mr Bell died of a respiratory obstruction by food. Coroner Mr Zafar Siddique concluded it was an accidental death. Mr Siddique said: "On the balance of probabilities he has eaten some pork scratchings and choked on the food."

Paying tribute to her husband, Alwyn Bell said: "He was the most easy-going bloke you could wish to meet. He was liked by everyone. A smashing guy."

The couple had been married for 53 years, having first met at a rock 'n' roll dance when they were both in the RAF. They wed at St Boniface Church in Quinton, and had two sons, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mrs Bell said: "He was given the all clear he had beaten the cancer. We sat everyone down and told them, and I had never seen him cry before but he cried. We were looking forward to Christmas."

Pupils create sea of poppies display



With some of the ceramic poppies is student Jade Tompkins, aged 14, at The Wordsley School

CARING schoolchildren have been busy crafting handmade ceramic poppies in the run up to Remembrance Day.

Year eight pupils at the Wordsley School, Stourbridge, were inspired by the famous poppy installation at the Tower of London in 2014.

Students and teachers at the school have now created about 1,000 poppies.

Originally the school had planned to make 750 ceramic poppies to represent each pupil at Wordsley, but due to their hard work, the pupils managed to make even more.

Assistant headteacher Maggie Lambert said: "The poppies are rather wonderful and have caught the attention of so many people when they're walking up and down the school drive.

"The students loved making them too – it's not just about the enjoyment, but being part of something that is so beautiful and spectacular.

"I think the pupils feel most proud of the fact that they're part of something so wonderful and fitting.

"The gravity that you feel when you're at a remembrance service is captured in the installation we've made and I'm sure parents will agree."

Mrs Lambert added: "We believe we have created a truly inspirational tribute to the fallen which rightly honours their memory."

Staff came up with the idea of the installation after brainstorming new ways to commemorate Remembrance Day.

"Remembrance is such an important aspect of our school and we wanted to show it the respect it deserves," she said.

Art teacher Tony While came up with the idea of how to make the poppies, which are on both stems and wire, in order to make them look effective.

Pupils made the poppies from single balls of clay resulting in each individual poppy being unique.

The poppies are for sale with prices starting from £5 for the poppies with a stem or two for £3 for ones without. The poppies can be reserved and bought from the school office.

All of the money raised from the poppy sales will be donated to the Royal British Legion.

Delays follow blaze at yard

PASSENGERS faced delays after a fire that started in a yard in Coseley spread to the railway embankment.

The fire took place at around 10.49am on Sunday November 6, in the yard of a commercial property on Bayer Street. The fire quickly spread to the nearby railway line, causing trains to travel at a reduced speed between Coseley and Tipton.

West Midlands Fire Service send one appliance and three firefighters to the blaze which was put out just after noon. No-one was hurt in the fire and normal service resumed on the line shortly after the fire service left.

Meanwhile, Midland Metro users faced delays to and from Birmingham as a car got stuck on the line.

The car became trapped on the line at Snow Hill Metro Station at around 10.15am on Sunday and it took three hours to remove.

The car had travelled around 100 metres down the line and trams travelling to and from Birmingham had to terminate at St Paul's while the crews were at work to clear it.

West Midlands Fire Service confirmed that they were called by British Transport Police to help remove the car, which was wedged along the line.

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Westminster trip with MP is offered

RESIDENTS from the Dudley South constituency are invited to take part in a trip to Westminster organised by their MP Mike Wood.

The Dudley South MP has organised the trip for December 8. A coach will leave from Kingswinford Legion car park at 8.30am and will return from Westminster at 7pm.

A guided tour of the Palace of Westminster will be given by Mike and his assistant of Westminster Hall at around 4pm. The coach costs £20 per person. For more information, call (01384) 913123.

Valuation day is held in village

PEOPLE who think they could be harbouring hidden treasures in their home are being invited to find out how much they are worth at an antique valuation day (Thursday).

The valuation day, run by Stourbridge-based auctioneer Fieldings, will run from 11am until 2pm at Lowestone Court on Stone Lane, Kinver.

The auctioneers will value everything from ceramics, glass and silver to jewellery and paintings and help people put a cost to their most treasured possessions and finest family heirlooms.

Advice offered to budding authors

ASPIRING writers can get advice and guidance at an event at Dudley Library later this month. Dudley Library will be hosting a questions and answers session with a panel of published authors and poets next Saturday, November 26.

They will be talking about the writing process and answering questions from 10.30am until 1pm. To book a free ticket call (01384) 815560, email libraries@dudley.gov.uk or enquire at the library in St James's Road.

No stone unturned in historian's talk

THE Black Country Society are hosting a lecture which looks at burial places of the famous and infamous.

The lecture, 'Leave No Stone Unturned', will take place at the Black Country Living Museum.

Travelling from East Anglia will be historian John Vigar, a successful author, broadcaster and popular tour guide with over 40 years of experience.

The lecture takes place on Wednesday with tickets priced at £2.

Village new pub plan

A BLACK Country brewery is planning to open a pub in Hagley village.

Batham's, based in Brierley Hill, has bought Palladium House in Worcester Road, in the village near Stourbridge. Subject to approval, the brewery plans to open the new pub within 12 to 18 months.

Boy admits town centre knife attack on teenager

A 14-year-old boy has admitted stabbing an older teenager in the stomach during a confrontation in the centre of a Black Country town.

The defendant pleaded guilty to wounding the 18-year-old with intent in Sedgley High Street on October 9.

They boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, appeared before Wolverhampton Crown Court last week.

He further admitted having a knife. Mr Stanley Reiz, defending, told the court that the 14-year-old had written a letter for the consideration of the court in which 'he apologises and acknowledges what he did'.

The boy was remanded in custody to allow a report to be prepared on him by the Youth Offending Service.

He is due to be sentenced on December 2 when full details of the case will be outlined to the court.

Judge John Wait told him: "You have pleaded guilty to very serious charges but you will have the maximum amount of credit for having entered the pleas at this early stage."

The victim, who suffered a single stab wound, was airlifted to hospital in a critical condition after the attack at around 6pm but it was later reported that he was recovering well.

The judge asked the prosecution to ensure there was a report on both the injury and its likely long term effects in time for the next hearing.

A 15-year-old youth who was also arrested in connection with the stabbing was later released without charge.

Closure date for activity centre

A CLOSURE date has been announced for an activity centre for the over 50s in the Brierley Hill area.

The Age UK Springboard activity centre, based at The Waterfront, will close on December 22.

The centre provides services for up to 700 people. Activities include exercise classes, ballroom dancing, arts and crafts and photography.

But the base will cease to function after £300,000 of funding was cut by Dudley Council in July.

Devastated staff said they are 'concerned' for their huge client base who visit and benefit from the project.

The centre has 53 staff and more than 300 volunteers who run health and wellbeing activities for those aged over 50.

Creating space for more visitors

EXTRA car parking spaces are to be created in Bewdley town centre to cater for visitors. Load Street car park is set to be extended by as many as 55 spaces on the site of the former library and medical centre.

Man trapped between tractor and bales



Medics help after the farm accident

A 21-year-old man had to be airlifted to hospital after being trapped between an 8ft high bale of straw and a tractor, sustaining a leg injury.

The incident happened in a field off Sugar Loaf Lane, Iwerley, near Stourbridge.

An air ambulance, other medics, firefighters and police all rushed to the scene, and were able to free the man whose leg was trapped underneath the large pile of hay.

He required treatment at the scene and was put on a stretcher and given pain relief before being flown to

Queen Elizabeth Hospital after the accident at around 2.15pm on Thursday.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "We can confirm that we were called to a field in Sugar Loaf Lane shortly after 2.15pm on Thursday."

Support

"An ambulance, a paramedic area support officer, the trust's Hazardous Area Response Team and the Midlands Air Ambulance from Cosford attended the scene."

"Ambulance staff arrived to find a man, believed to be in his 20s, whose leg was trapped underneath a bale of hay."

"Once freed, the man, who remained conscious throughout, was treated for a leg injury, immobilised and given pain relief before being airlifted to Queen Elizabeth Hospital."

The ambulance service shared several photos of the incident on Twitter, which showed emergency staff gathered around the towering bales of straw.

Three leisure centres could be replaced by two

DUDLEY'S three main leisure centres will close and be replaced with two new facilities, under proposals to save the borough council £1.7 million.

The plans involve leisure centres in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen shutting down as council bosses say it would cost too much to repair them.

Instead, two state-of-the-art new centres with swimming pools, gyms and badminton courts, would be built in the borough.

The radical proposals form part of Dudley Council's aim to save £25m over the next three years.

Council chiefs will enter into discussions with staff but it is not yet known whether jobs will be cut.

Council leader Pete Lowe suggested a shake-up of leisure centres was on the cards during the announcement of the authority's budget proposals for 2017/18, when he said leisure provision needed to be suitable for the 21st century.

Now council bosses have decided to follow other parts of the Black Country, such as Wolverhampton and Sandwell, in building new leisure centres.

Slide

Dudley Leisure Centre, on Wellington Road; Halesowen Leisure Centre, on Great Cornbow; and the Crystal Leisure Centre, on Bell Street, Stourbridge, with its distinctive yellow slide, would all go under the proposals.

Bosses are believed to be looking at several sites across the borough for the new centres.

The buildings would not close until the two new ones have been built but it means at least one town will no longer have its own leisure centre.

Chiefs said the three centres were in desperate need of repair and were struggling to compete with modern facilities elsewhere. No timescale has been given for when the new centres will be built.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, Dudley's cabinet member for leisure, said: "These are exciting proposals being put forward and will totally transform how we deliver leisure facilities across the borough."

"Staff work had to keep our current stock of leisure centres going but they face an uphill struggle to compete against privately-run facilities and spiralling maintenance costs."

Zoo expert builds on success



Carlo Diponio is presented with the award by Downton Abbey writer Julian Fellowes, Lord Lloyd Webber and Historic England chief executive Duncan Wilson

AN EXPERT at Dudley Zoo has received an award for his contribution to conserving British heritage in a scheme backed by theatre mogul Lord Lloyd Weber.

Carlo Diponio, construction supervisor at Dudley Zoo, was given the accolade because of his major contribution to restoring concrete Tecton buildings at the attraction.

The Tectons were designed by Russian-born architect Berthold Lubetkin and are considered a

significant development in 20th century architecture.

Dudley Zoo has the world's largest single collection of Tecton buildings. All 12 are listed and in 2009 they were granted World Monuments Fund status, giving the same status as Machu Picchu and the Taj Mahal.

In 2014 Heritage Lottery Funding was granted to refurbish the structures, which include kiosks and enclosures.

Mr Diponio said: "It's an absolute pleasure to work on these buildings and hopefully it won't stop here."

"The more people that look at concrete buildings the way I did, the better."

They awards are funded by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation which promotes the arts, culture and heritage for the public benefit. Lord Lloyd Webber was among the judges.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Politics? Give me a bit of that old apathy

THERE seems to be a lot of anger in the world at the moment. Just as it was with the EU referendum, the election over in the colonies has shown us that we are not alone in living in a society which seems to be very divided along ideological lines.

Where has all this vitriol suddenly come from? The liberal commentators' view seems to be that there is a simmering undercurrent of uneducated, older blue collar workers who feel that they have been left behind by progressive society. Which, roughly translated, means those who disagree with them are a bit thick.

But I think there is another force which is to blame. Smart phones.

Think about it. People used to hold enlightened discussions in public debates. Then radio phone-ins came along, turning the heat up a notch or two. Swiftly followed by Central Weekend which, for those who don't remember, was a bit like Question Time. With bouncers.

Now we have Facebook and Twitter, and anyone with a smart phone in their pocket has a ready audience. Suddenly everybody's a philosopher.

Only they aren't, because in this age of instant communication, weighing up the pros and cons, and trying to understand the opposite point of view, is just too slow. Instead, the whole thing has gone tribal. People decide which side they are on the way they choose a football team, and they'll stick to their guns through thick and thin. Woe betide anyone who takes the other side.

Old friendships come to an abrupt end on so-called social media. Last week, somebody I vaguely used to know called for a sniper to take out Donald Trump. How can anybody get so worked up about politics? And another country's politics at that.

Maybe I'm out of date. But I can't help but yearn for a bit of good old-fashioned apathy.

□ □ □

WHATEVER one's views on the Merry Hill centre, it would be churlish not to give Don Richardson a huge slap on the back for his latest venture, a free car park outside Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

It is heartbreaking to see pensioners and other people on low incomes shelling out day after day to visit loved ones with long-term conditions, and this is a superb act of generosity from Mr Richardson.

Let's hope others follow this lead.

□ □ □

UNDER new proposals, patients with sore throats may be referred to the chemist rather than their doctor. Do people really trouble their GP with such trivia? No wonder the NHS is strapped for cash.

Toughen up and get some Strepsils.



Jacket designer Elizabeth Isley, aged 21



Slaves jackets are very personalised



Kim Kardashian and Kanye West are customers

Jackets that fit well with the celebrities

Stars are clamouring for her designs, and it all started with a £10 buy from a charity shop, reports LUCY THOMPSON

DESIGNING jackets for A-list celebrities, 24,000 social media followers and a Liberty London exclusive collection – not bad for an art graduate who started out painting leather jackets in her bedroom.

Elizabeth Isley, from Sedgley, now counts Kanye West and Kim Kardashian among her customers but the journey all began after she bought a £10 leather jacket from The Salvation Army in Dudley three years ago.

The 21-year-old, who studied at Halesowen College, said: "I bought a leather jacket from The Salvation Army in Dudley and took it home but it was too big for me so I painted on it and used it as a wall decoration. I painted the words 'I shave my legs for you' and woke up the next day to thousands of Instagram followers including Rihanna."

Messages

Elizabeth's Instagram profile is where she regularly receives messages from her followers requesting their own specially-painted jackets.

She graduated from Birmingham City University with a degree in fine art.

"Towards the end of my university course Liberty London got in touch and wanted to stock my leather jackets in the shop," said Elizabeth. "I made 24 jackets, which sold out within six days, and now I'm scheduled to make 25 each month for them until February."

"My nan hates it, she can't believe Liberty would ever stock my art."

The creative juices flow and the magic happens at her studio in Digbeth in Birmingham.

She said: "I'm currently painting a jacket for Florence Welch of Florence + the Machine, her manager got in touch with my manager and stated that Florence loved the jackets and



Some of the many jackets Elizabeth has painted and which are proving a great hit

wanted one of her own. I've also done four jackets for Kanye West, he got in touch asking for three for his daughter North West and one for his wife Kim Kardashian. He shipped over his own jackets and I painted Kanye West lyrics on them at his request."

She has also done some jackets for the band Slaves. She prides herself in being a feminist and litters her art and bespoke £500 leather jackets with feminist slogans. The creative journey began though after a relationship break-up and general everyday girl problems, using 42 square inch boards and leather jack-

ets to scribble down her regrets and stories. Her website states that her art work features 'witty one-liners and honest nods to her own experiences in life with romance and everyday girl problems like eating a whole box of mini rolls and basking in loneliness'.

But when her hands aren't full of paint-brushes, Elizabeth models, take photos and is part of 'GrlPwr Gang', a group of women that work together to support women in the creative industries and female empowerment, recently featuring on River Island's social media accounts for a live Q&A. Music is also one of

Elizabeth's biggest inspirations, inspired by the punk era and her favourites Patti Smith and Courtney Love. She said: "I love the punk era from back in the day but all in all I just make what I want to wear. I walk around with painted and customised clothes as it's just what I want to wear and other people must want to too." New York is on the cards in February as Elizabeth has her own exhibition planned there.

Her first solo exhibition, All My Mistakes in One Room, is at Moosey Art in Norwich until November 5.

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LAST month Mark Andrews correctly pointed out that Dudley 'will continue to be the largest town in the country with no train link' (Chronicle, October 27).

Totally unnecessarily, because for the last 50 years there has remained the site of Dudley railway station, well-used for about 100 years, and the 65km double track main line railway safeguarded for the return of passenger trains.

This month he wrote 'while Birmingham receives its fourth city centre railway station, the rail network

for the Black Country remains a joke.' (Chronicle, November 3). How true.

It's got even worse. Our poorly informed councillors decided to build an 'Innovation Centre' on the site of Dudley railway station and to put a test track on 2km of the 65km between Stourbridge and Burton through the heart of the Black Country with its 1.3 million population.

Over the last 30 years, transport bosses and councillors have destroyed the following railway lines:

Dudley to Wolverhampton; Dudley to Birmingham; Dudley to Halesowen

via Netherton and Old Hill and on to Longbridge.

Together we might be able to stop the 65km of missing Black Country link on the Worcester to Derby strategic railway from having buildings - and from having loss-making, slow and very expensive to build bus-like trams on two short sections totalling 7km.

It is far more sensible to reinstate the commuter and intercity trains on the full 65km for the same price as slow trams.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

US election cover was over the top

I FULLY appreciate that we should have coverage of the American election but having it forced down our throats for almost 24 hours on the news programmes is beyond belief - even our General Election did not get so much coverage.

The BBC during the day of the election moved other programmes off the schedule and even more disgusting was the lack of coverage of the tram disaster in Croydon and other news.

To give the presidential election the coverage it had was both shameful and totally unwarranted.

This coverage appeared to make Britain into one of the states of that country.

On the local news for the Midlands, a couple of tourists they had come here to get away from the election and they could not believe how much coverage we gave to it.

PETE LOWE
Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
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EMAIL

dudley.chrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Poppies worn for all affected by war

FOR some reason politics entered into the debate of the England and Scotland football match and the poppies.

When I was young and I used to go the cenotaph in Oldbury with my dad and saw everyone wearing poppies, I would ask why. My dad would say it's for all the brave men and women, but also for all the innocent people caught up in conflicts whose blood was spilt in order to resolve the problems of the time.

My dad wasn't an educated man but he was worldly-wise and looked beyond the obvious. He may not have seen as much action as many of the brave men and women whose names we see etched in stone but he would show us pictures of destruction and say: 'These people just wanted to live.'

Acknowledging them is as important as those fighting for their freedom, no matter whose side they belonged to.

I speak to a lot of old soldiers in my work with oral histories and language and can never comprehend the pain that they and their mums must have gone through.

My dad wore his poppy for everyone. When he closed his eyes for a minute's silence it was for all affected by war.

DR B DAKIN
Tividale

No wicked plot at the allotments

MAY I respond to the person who appears to have several gripes with the Blaze Park Allotments in Victoria Street, Wall Heath, having attached an anonymous letter to our skip.

All members adhere to our strict rules regarding the removal of rubbish. We do at this time of year have an excess of waste material and rather than having nuisance bonfires, choose to pay for a skip sited off-road for a three day period.

We try to be most considerate towards neighbours with our rules for both size and quality of all garden structures. We maintain the grassed entrance area since the council refuse to accept responsibility for its upkeep.

Blaze Park Allotments are maintained to a very high standard, a credit to plot-holders who neither as I am aware cause parking problems. Perhaps the mystery writer would like to attend our AGM next Spring.

D VAUGHAN
Blaze Park Allotments

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'I couldn't find my grandparents' grave'



Ex-soldier Wayne Cox is disgusted at the overgrown state of All Saints Church cemetery in Sedgley

A CEMETERY in Sedgley has been branded "disgusting" by a resident as it is too overgrown and untidy to find his grandparents' graves.

Wayne Cox had tried to visit the graves at All Saints Church cemetery since returning from the Army. Instead he found rubbish, overgrown plants and smashed headstones.

Mr Cox said: "When I first went to visit the cemetery I was totally and utterly disgusted with what I was faced with. Anyone can easily see that the maintenance and upkeep have been neglected for many years.

"I could see the rubbish, beer cans,

across the cemetery and as a human being I felt sick. I had no way of finding their graves as all the graves are covered."

He has since contacted local MPs and Dudley Council.

Mr Cox added: "It's my duty to look after their graves. I feel so disgusted that we've allowed this cemetery to get into such a state. We've now got a massive problem on our hands. This is going to be a mammoth task."

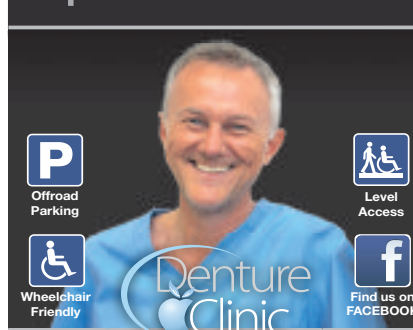
Ian Austin, Labour MP for Dudley North, said: "It's terrible that the graveyard has been left to deteriorate. That's why I have been working hard

to support local families who want the graveyard cleared up, organising for the council to secure some of the collapsed graves and contacting the Youth Offending Team, Probation Service and War Graves Commission to put together a plan to get the entire area cleaned up."

Councillor Hilary Bills said: "We have improved access to the graves that are still tended to and ensured main paths and war graves are maintained."

"Like many other councils, we don't get any additional resource to maintain closed churchyards."

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Woman who caused fatal road accident is jailed

A WOMAN motorist has been jailed after she probably fell asleep at the wheel, causing an accident which killed a nurse from Stourbridge and seriously injuring his partner.

Shirley Glover's Volvo XC60 veered onto the wrong side of the A450, near Kidderminster, smashing head-on into an MG3, killing driver Stuart Frost.

Glover, aged 50, had failed to notify the DVLA that she suffered with obstructive sleep apnoea, a condition that can cause tiredness.

She had been diagnosed in 2014 and was given medical advice to avoid driving when tired.

She should also have contacted the DVLA as her symptoms could affect her ability to drive safely but she failed to do so.

She was jailed for two years and nine months at Hereford Crown Court after pleading guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Drowsiness

The court heard how Glover, from Stourport, had left work early on March 21 as she was not feeling well.

Despite having taken three prescription medicines that had warnings over drowsiness and driving vehicles, she got into her car to drive home.

As she approached Shenstone on the A450, her vehicle crossed the white line dividing the carriageway and collided with the car driven by nurse Mr Frost.

The crash happened between the Droitwich Island near Black Bridge and the Mustow Green Island, less than a mile from his parents' home.

Mr Frost was pronounced dead at the scene. His partner Emma, who was the front seat passenger, was taken to



Crash victim Stuart Frost had just started a new job in nursing

hospital with multiple injuries.

Crash scene investigators concluded that the collision was a result of Glover's vehicle being on the wrong side of the road and believe she may have fallen asleep at the wheel.

When Glover's medical records were reviewed, investigators uncovered her undisclosed condition.

Glover was banned from driving for five years and must pass an extended

test before she is allowed back behind the wheel.

Obstructive sleep apnoea is a condition that can cause breathing to slow down or stop briefly during sleep. The knock-on effect can be feeling tired during the day.

After the sentencing, Ian Crooks, from West Midlands Crown Prosecution Service, said Glover had no right to be driving after taking so much medication and having a condition that made her prone to tiredness.

He said: "This prosecution highlights the consequences of failing to heed medical advice and to drive in circumstances where it may not be safe to do so.

"Shirley Glover failed to follow these instructions. She was fully aware of her obstructive sleep apnoea, yet she still got behind the wheel of her car when feeling tired.

Devastating

"As a result Glover failed to control that vehicle. It then crossed the carriageway and into the path of the oncoming MG3 being driven by Mr Frost. "The consequences of Glover's failure to control her vehicle were devastating.

"Our thoughts are very much with the family and friends of Stuart Frost."

Mr Frost, aged 42, was a former member of the RAF and of the Military Police.

He had decided on a change of career and attended Worcester University, where he achieved a first-class degree in nursing. During his time there he met his partner Emma.

Mr Frost had started a new job shortly before his death, working with the home treatment team from Kidderminster Hospital.

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FOCUS ON DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE

Work finally starts on North Priory community centre

A REGENERATION masterplan in Dudley spanning ten years came under the spotlight during a VIP visit.

The decade-long plan to reshape Dudley is at the midway point with millions of pounds worth of investment. A further £70m is in the pipeline as Dudley Council plans to work with partners on the next five years of the plan.

Marcus Jones MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, was invited to meet MPs and council chiefs.

He heard about the millions of pounds the council has helped secure to develop the Castle Hill area. This includes the Very Light Rail innovation centre and increasing the number of visitors at Black Country Living Museum.

Old factory has been sold

A VANDALISED and derelict Dudley factory has been sold.

The Grade II-listed building, which used to be known as W Devenport & Sons in Churchfield Street, was due to go under the hammer with property specialists SDL Bigwood.

A spokesman confirmed that it had been sold before the auction for between £78,000 to £83,000. It was suggested that the historic building could be turned into apartments.

LONG-AWAITED work on a new community centre in Dudley is gathering pace – with councillors optimistic it will finally be open to the public by the spring.

Latest images show how the North Priory Community Centre site is shaping up after the scheme was given the go-ahead, after having been dogged by delays.

By Richard Guttridge

Diggers have moved onto the site and begun clearing ground ready for the foundations to be laid. The centre will take shape over the coming weeks.

It was a proud moment for campaigners when the spade finally went in the ground after a seven-year battle to have the community centre built near Donkey Pool playing fields on Priory Road.

The site has been empty since the former community buildings were knocked down in 2007.

The scheme for the new community centre ran into difficulties over problems with funding. The project is expected to cost around £600,000.

The venue will include a meeting hall, kitchen, cafe, changing rooms, shower facilities and multi-use games area. It will host activities for children and will also be used for functions and public events.

Councillor Ken Finch, who represents the Castle and Priory ward, has led the battle to secure the community centre for the best part of a decade.

He said he was delighted the project was coming to fruition 'against all the odds'.

He said: "I was down there last week and it is really beginning to take shape. It is due to be finished in May but I am hoping it will be finished before then."

"I am delighted that we will have a community centre that people will be able to use for years to come."

"Everyone is delighted we have achieved what the people of Castle and Priory deserve."

Preparations have begun for furnishing the community centre with tables and chairs donated by Dudley College and Dudley Council.



After a nine year campaign work starts on the site of North Priory Community Centre, in Priory Road, Dudley

Christmas products at market

SUNDAY shopping will get a boost in the lead-up to Christmas with the new Sunday markets in Dudley town centre.

The Black Country Market is located on Flood Street car park and has been in operation since October.

Stalls are open every Sunday from 10am to 4pm and include a wide variety of produce including toys, plants, clothing, food, arts and crafts, vintage ware and antiques, hardware and jewellery.

In the run up to Christmas, a wide range of seasonal goods and accessories are also on offer and a funfair provides entertainment. There is also a weekly car boot sale.

Balbir Singh, market manager, said: "With such a fantastic range of goods at great prices, this is the perfect place to do Christmas shopping."

Fundraising festive fair

THE Access in Dudley group is holding a Christmas craft fair on Saturday.

The event is being staged in the DY1 community building in Stafford Street from 11am to 4pm.

Access in Dudley, formed in April 2004, helps disabled people across the borough and is consulted on public planning issues.

The group undertakes access audits of the built environment and also looks at service provision in the borough.

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Arson fear at flat above chip shop

A FIRE above a popular fish and chip shop in Pensnett is being treated as arson. A police investigation is now under way after the blaze at the flat above Goodies Chip Shop, on Tansey Green Road. The attack took place in the staircase area of the first floor flat above Goodies, which was left with smoke damage. A spokesperson from West Midlands Fire Service said: "We sent eight firefighters from Brierley Hill station to the fire. "We were told the fire took place in the first floor flat above the chip shop. "We requested police to attend the fire as the incident looked to be suspicious." The fire broke out at 6.34pm on Thursday. Firefighters used breathing apparatus while they fought the flames, which had been extinguished by 8.45pm. A spokesperson from West Midlands Police said: "An investigation has been launched and is currently being treated as arson."

Young dancers made all the right moves



Pictured from left are Charlotte Gould, Courtney Lines-Glover and Amelia Hubbard as they celebrate their European success in Blackpool

THREE Black Country girls are celebrating after returning home with trophies from the European Dance championship at Blackpool's Winter Gardens. Nine-year-old Courtney Lines-Glover, of Cradley, came first in the under-10s freestyle. Meanwhile, Charlotte Gould, 12, of Rowley Regis and Amelia Hubbard, 12, of Halesowen, came first in the rock and roll dance category. The girls are from the Rhythmics Dance Centre school based in Cradley Heath. Kelly Glover, Courtney's mum, said: "It was a massive achievement for the girls to make the final let alone get first place." She added: "It's such an achievement because Courtney's so young and because of the amount of people she was competing against. "We were extremely proud of her and all the other girls from the dance school. They were all supporting each other. It's like having one big family and I'm proud of all them." Rhythmics Dance Centre was established in 1995 and has two dance studios.

Man is charged over teenager's death

A MAN has been charged with the kidnap and manslaughter of Tipton teenager Kaydel Williams. Construction worker Simon Seeney, 34, from Downside Road, Erdington, appeared at Birmingham Magistrates Court on Saturday. He has been remanded in custody until Friday, December 9, to appear at Birmingham Crown Court. A 34-year-old woman who was arrested on suspicion of perverting the course of justice and assisting an offender has been released on police bail while enquiries continue. Mr Williams, 19, was found injured on Hunton Road, Erdington shortly before 9pm on October 7. Mr Williams was pronounced dead at the scene. Investigating officer Detective Inspector Warren Hines, from Force CID, said: "We believe that several people may have been involved in the young man's death."

Security guard stops air rifle man threatening passers-by

A MAN who strode through Sedgley town centre pointing an air rifle at people has been locked up for 14 months. Gavin Harkins was stopped when he came face to face with a security guard, who took the gun off him and hit him with it, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard. Harkins had gone home after being refused entry to a pub, collected the air rifle and a kitchen knife and returned to the area after midnight on August 14. The 22-year-old pointed the .22 rifle at people in the Bull Ring in Sedgley.

With his finger on the trigger he warned 'you are having it,' said Mr Mark Phillips, prosecuting. Mark Bradley, in charge of the door staff at the nearby Swan pub, went up to Harkins with another man and disarmed him out 12.30am. The defendant was struck several times with the butt of the gun. Mr Phillips said: "Mr Bradley ensured he no longer presented a threat to anybody while they waited for the police." Harkins was taken to hospital with facial injuries and arrested after receiving treatment. He declined to answer when quizzed by police but later

told a probation officer that he armed himself after being refused entry to a pub. Mr Phillips added: "We had a man coming out with a weapon and pointing it at somebody while having ammunition for the weapon, whether it was armed or not." Mr Anthony Potter, defending, said Harkins, a full-time carer for his mother, was 'ashamed and embarrassed' by his conduct. Harkins, from Glenn Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to possession of an air rifle and knife and was jailed for 14 months.



Gavin Harkins - jailed

Lucky escape as car hits pub wall

CUSTOMERS had a lucky escape when a car smashed through the wall of a Sedgley pub. Drinkers and nearby residents were shocked by a loud bang and rushed out to see rubble strewn across the car park at The Beacon Hotel in Bilston Street. The crash happened on Friday night just after 9pm when a red Vauxhall Astra GTC struck the wall that surrounds the pub's car park. The pub's general manager Alex Marchant said the driver was not apparently hurt after hitting the wall after swerving out of the way of another vehicle. He added: "We didn't need to shut when it happened, in fact, we were probably busier with people coming along to have a look what was going on. We're just grateful that everyone is okay." Police attended and no arrest was made.

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Fly-tipped rubbish is ruining walk by canal

A DOG walker is devastated that her regular canal-side walk has been ruined by persistent fly-tippers.

Pensioner Judith Fisher who has lived on Temple Way in Tividale for the past 10 years used to enjoy walking along the canal with her dog Teddy but, in recent months, it has been spoilt by a variety of rubbish.

Ms Fisher said: "It's absolutely disgusting.

Mechanical

"There has been mechanical waste and other rubbish left not only by Britannia Road, but all along the canal.

"I'd say it has been going on for the past seven months.

"I've seen swans and a cygnet, a heron and a kingfisher. But I think it was either oil or fat which I saw that had been poured on the surface

of the water. I like the wildlife and I worry what effect all this is having."

Ms Fisher was even put off taking her normal walk when she saw a suspicious looking van and car park up close to the canal, and she has contacted the council with her concerns.

She added: "It's lovely to walk along there in the summer, and in the winter too. But this has just spoilt it."

The dog walker was relieved to see that there was less rubbish at the location last week than on her previous visits, but she is concerned that the culprits will just return as they have done many times before.

"This needs to be nipped in the bud, to stop them coming back again," she said.



Jude Fisher with her dog Teddy looks at rubbish left beside the canal off Britannia Road, Tividale

'Exceptional' year boosts LCP profits

ONE of the Black Country's biggest property companies has hailed 'an exceptional year' as profits soared by over £7 million.

Newly filed figures at Companies House show profits and turnover both on the rise at London & Cambridge Properties, based at Kingswinford.

And it has seen the value of its shopping centres, offices and industrial estates across Europe and the UK rise to £1.16 billion.

The company owns sites across the Black Country, including its 2.3 million sq ft flagship Pensnett Industrial Estate in Kingwinford, where LCP has its own head-quarters.

As well as industrial estates in Wednesbury, Oldbury, West Bromwich and Burntwood, it owns the Wulfrun shopping centre in Wolverhampton town centre, the Churchill Centre in Dudley, Brierley Hill's Moor Centre, Park Place in Walsall and Aldridge Shopping Centre.

Across the UK it has 410 sites extending to 15 million sq ft, with more than 3,500 tenant businesses. At any one time around 93 per cent of its space is in use.

New factory to bring more than 100 jobs

A FIRM which makes parts for some of the world's largest car makers has been given the green light for a £25 million expansion, including a new factory in the Black Country creating up to 150 jobs.

Steel and Alloy Processing will build the factory on the site of a former Albright High School in Oldbury.

The company has its headquarters in West Bromwich and also has sites in Darlaston, Cannock and Smethwick, counting the likes of Jaguar, Vauxhall, Volkswagen and Volvo among its customers.

Its latest factory will be built on a 25,000 sq ft site in Popes Lane which, as well as being Albright High until it closed in 1983, also housed Sandwell's Training and Development Centre, which has now been demolished.

Surge

Company director Max Coleman said the expansion had been driven by a surge in demand for motor parts.

He said: "We are a key supplier in the automotive industry. There will be an investment of £25m in this facility which we will look to have operational by the end of the year.

"We are committed to building a high-quality facility and generate jobs in Sandwell."

The plans were backed by members of Sandwell Council's planning committee last week.

Mr Coleman said staff would be employed over three phases, with 46 work-

By Richard Guttridge

ers being taken on initially before eventually growing to around 150.

In addition to the factory, the proposal will see more than 500 sqm used for a utilities and waste management area, and a 700 sqm two-storey office building.

Steel and Alloy Processing has been based in West Bromwich for almost 50 years.

Although the plans were unanimously approved, the firm may be asked to work with the council to improve access to the site after road safety concerns were raised.

Worries about the safety of the junction of Popes Lane and Birmingham Road were raised by a nearby business during the council's planning meeting.

John Wood, director of Liberty Industry Group, which is also based on Popes Lane, told the committee: "The junction is definitely unsafe. Lorries can't turn round.

"It is very difficult getting in and out. There definitely needs to be some sort of improvement at that junction."

Warning after hair straighteners start blaze

A SET of hair straighteners sparked a blaze which caused major damage at a house in Rowley Regis, prompting a safety message from firefighters.

Crews were called to the house in Wyde Crescent, Rowley Regis on Saturday to tackle the blaze. It started in the rear bedroom of the semi-detached house at 4.20pm after straighteners were left on a bed.

The occupants of the house managed to get out before firefighters arrived.

Two firefighters wore breathing apparatus to tackle the blaze.

Fire chiefs have issued a warning to remind people of the potential risk posed by heated hair straighteners.

Watch Commander Justin Bayliss, from Haden Cross Fire Station, said: "Be careful. Please make sure hair straighteners are turned off as these things can heat up to 200C."

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13 Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 17, 2016



Winter is coming, why not add value and room space with DW Windows Ltd orangery



Dave Walters managing director of DW Windows Ltd

Celebrating a great decade in business

FAMILY run windows specialists DW Windows is celebrating its first decade in business in the Black Country this year.

The business has grown steadily since being funded by former firefighter Dave Walters in 2006.

It is now run from a head office in Coseley and has two showrooms and employs more than 30 people, including six directly-employed fitting teams.

DW Windows has moved on way beyond just double glazed windows - of which it offers many different styles and colour profiles, including aluminium - and also offers conservatories, doors, solid tiled conservatory roofs and much more.

Company Secretary and Dave's wife, Claire, said that her husband had 25 years' experience in the windows industry and had fitted them for other companies, but realised that he could provide a better service if doing it himself.

"We have gone from being one man with a van operating from our home in Wolverhampton, to employing more than 30 people across two sites," she explained.

DW opened its first showroom in Brick Street, Sedgley, in 2010 and last July opened a much bigger 7,300 sq ft showroom and a new head office in Meadow Lane, Coseley, creating a further 15 new jobs.

A former warehouse was renovated to create one of the largest windows and doors showrooms in the Midlands, along with offices and a warehouse for DW Windows' stock and supplies.

At Coseley, eight conservatories/orangeries, two porches, 27 various doors, three sliding patios, two bi-fold doors, sliding sash windows and various other window products are on display as well as more specialist products on show there is also plenty to see at the Brick Street showroom in Sedgley including Residence 9 windows, aluminium, flush sash and conservatory tiled roof options.

DW Windows specialises in Linar and Profile 22 uPVC windows and doors also Apeer and Eurocell enhanced security composite doors.

Claire Walters, who joined her husband in the business in 2013 said that it had grown from a turnover of 180,000 in its first full year to 2.3 million last year. "We have achieved this in spite of going through the height of the economic downturn and uncertainty for the construction industry.

"Our plan now is to open more showrooms in the West Midlands in the next few years as we continue to grow," she said.

The core area of business for DW Windows is the Black Country and surrounding areas of Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Birmingham. It has also had people come from as far as Yorkshire and Wales who had heard about the standard of the company's work.

Most of DW's business comes from recommendations and the remainder from people calling in to its showrooms and through its website - www.dwwindow.co.uk



Inside of a DW Window Ltd orangery

- and many people choose to book an appointment from its product advisers at their homes.

They can be booked on Freephone 0800 999 0909.

Once a customer has decided on exactly what they want and signed a contract, one of the company's four directly employed surveyors will attend to do a final measure up.

A date is then given for installation and the surveyor will draw up the job, process it and book the fitters in.

For most work, the aim is to complete the work within four weeks of an order, but for bigger jobs like conservatories, dates are given for the completion of each stage.

The team of installers are trained in house to industry standards, with the assistance of an external health and safety consultant.

It has CHAS (Construction Health and Safety Scheme) accreditation. DW Windows, which last year carried out more than 900 installations, always strives to ensure the standards of installations are the highest and there is a strong focus on professionalism, workmanship, customer service and after sales advice.

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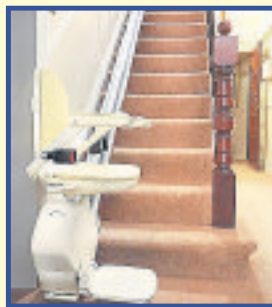
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Why teenage life 'was so tough' for Thomas

"TRYING to pull a girlfriend when you are a teenager wearing a leotard is pretty difficult."

Black Country Olympic medal winning athlete Kristian Thomas has opened up about his early career as an aspiring gymnast and the sacrifices he had to make to make it to the top.

Kristian, aged 27, who hails from Wolverhampton, spoke of having a 'really hard time' as a teenager and revealed he used to sneak Haribo sweets and a Playstation into his suitcase when travelling for competitions.

Asked about how he got into gymnastics, the freshly enrolled Wolverhampton University student said: "I do not say this often to him, perhaps ever, but it is actually my big brother who I have got to thank."

"He was always running around and climbing up things like the Christmas tree and eventually my parents decided no more bottles of Coke and sent him down the local gymnastics club."

"I followed him even though I had no idea what gymnastics was. But after a while I realised that I could do things that others could not."

"I played football when I was younger as well but it got to a point where I just had to concentrate on athletics."

Asked about school and the sacrifices he had to make, Kristian, who now lives near Cannock, revealed it was really hard.

He said: "I had to give up certain



Kristian on the horizontal bar during the men's team final in Rio

foods, drinks. I would not have been able to do it without the support of my family who made a lot of sacrifices as well, even taking time off work sometimes to take me to competitions.

"I obviously missed a lot of school so I would have to catch up while I was away competing. But it did not stop me sneaking my Playstation in my bag and some Haribo or Maoam sweets."

Supportive

"My school were really supportive and allowed me to catch-up. I used to miss mornings because I was training but then sometimes I was late - so I told them I was training."

When asked if he had to give up girls, he quipped: "Trying to pull a girlfriend when you are a teenager

wearing a leotard is pretty difficult." However, there is one thing above all else that he remembers as a child.

"One thing that has always stuck with me is that I was told from a young age I was going to be too tall to be a gymnast," he said.

Kristian, who trains in Halesowen, was speaking at the Black Country Sports Awards held in Dudley, where he won the Sports Personality of the Year gong, beating local Paralympians Helen Scott and Jordanne Whiley MBE. On the night he brought along his bronze medal from the London 2012 Olympics and confessed he keeps it in his sock drawer.

"I think the night was really good," he said. "The importance of showcasing grassroots in any sport is very important up to elite level because that is where everybody has come from."

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Taxi driver hurt in road accident

A TAXI driver was injured in a crash in the Black Country.

Three people were inside the taxi when it was involved in a collision with a Vauxhall Corsa on Dudley Road in Halesowen, close to Mucklow Hill.

The taxi driver went to hospital with back injuries. The passengers were believed to have minor head injuries and were checked over, according to watch commander Justin Bayliss at Haden Cross Fire Station

Two fire engines, two ambulances and police attended the scene at around 6.45pm on Saturday.

Watch commander Bayliss said the driver of the Corsa did not sustain major injuries. One side of the road was blocked off while the taxi and car were assessed and made safe by firefighters.

Witness appeal after rider injured in hit-and-run incident

POLICE and relatives are appealing for witnesses after a motorcyclist was seriously injured following a hit-and-run in Rowley Regis.

Father-of-three Graham Hickman remains in a critical condition in hospital after being struck by a vehicle in Birmingham Road just after 7.40pm on Sunday, October 30.

The 52-year-old, who was riding a Harley Davidson bike, suffered serious head and leg injuries and officers are particularly keen to

hear from witnesses who saw a dark coloured convertible in the area.

A statement from Mr Hickman's family said: "Graham is a loving husband and father to three daughters. He is a hard working engineer, supportive and loyal to many friends – he is a good, honest man. We are understandably shocked and devastated by what has happened.

"We urge anyone who may possibly have seen or heard anything around the time the incident occurred, or who may have other information – no matter how small – to come forward as soon as possible."

Pc Damian Gibson, from the regional collision investigation unit, added: "I would like to appeal to anyone who saw a dark coloured convertible car with its roof down.

"We believe that this car is local to the area and may have crucial information, so I would urge the driver or anybody who saw the vehicle to contact police.

"If anyone in the local community has any information relating to this collision – however insignificant they feel it may be – I would like to hear from them." Call 101 quoting CIU203/16 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Mayor puts focus on patient dignity

MAYOR of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif visited Russells Hall Hospital to help raise awareness of 'dignity' and explain what it means to him.

Executive directors from The Dudley Group joined the mayor in writing out their own definitions of dignity on to heart shaped leaves, adding them to a Digni-tree which will help shape Dudley's own dignity charter.

The Mayor was taken on a tour of the Forget-Me-Not Unit, the hospital's dedicated area for patients with dementia. He spoke to staff and patients.

He said: "It has been a real honour and privilege to see all of the dedication and hard work from staff that goes on behind the scenes."

Charity worker celebrates



Peggy Hazeldine pictured on her 90th birthday with senior carer Rachel Cookson

A LADY who has spent more than 50 years volunteering across the Black Country has celebrated turning 90.

Peggy Hazeldine grew up in Upper Gornal and lived there until she married her husband Wilf when she was 21.

Peggy, who grew up as a devout Christian, moved to Bilston after marriage, before she went into volunteering.

As well as a strong involvement with St Peter's Church in Upper Gornal, Mrs Hazeldine primarily volunteered as divisional secretary of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) for more than 40 years, inspired by her husband who served in RAF during World War II.

Later moving to Sedgley with her husband, Mrs Hazeldine had three children who are all now in their 60s.

In her charity work, Peggy helped hun-

dreds of ex-service people, getting grants for them to supporting ex-soldiers with disabilities. Her charity work was acknowledged by The Frank Foley Award which highlights people who make an outstanding contribution to the community.

She received the award in 2009. She also received a gold badge this summer recognising her decades of long voluntary service for SSAFA, which came with a certificate signed by Prince Michael of Kent.

Following the death of her husband Wilf in 1999, the ever social Mrs Hazeldine got into art in her 70s, attending weekly painting classes in Coseley.

After suffering a stroke six years ago, Peggy moved to Bearnett House, Wolverhampton, 18 months ago where, although not as active as she used to be, she still likes to paint.

RSPCA concerned at dead chickens find

THE RSPCA is appealing for information after three chickens have been found dead on a pavement in Halesowen.

RSPCA inspector Boris Lasserre found them in a black bin bag on Haden Hill Road on Thursday (November 3) at around 9.30am when he had been out on another call.

Mr Lasserre said: "There is obviously great concern as to where they have come from, how there have come to be in such a shocking condition, and if there are further chickens suffering and dying from neglect.

Dumped

"Worryingly, there is reason to believe that at least one of the chickens was still alive when they were left dumped in the plastic bag on the pavement."

Anyone with information about the chickens can call the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018.

Leader goes back to school

DUDLEY'S council leader returned to his old school as a VIP guest.

Councillor Peter Lowe visited Thorns Community College where he had been a pupil in the 1980s.

The council boss met members of the student leadership team, visited lessons and toured the facilities with head boy Stephen Sault and head girl Moumina Hussain.

Councillor Lowe said: "As a Black Country bloke, born and bred, I have nothing but fond memories of my time at Thorns."

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Village pensioner died in garage fire

TRIBUTES have been paid to a pensioner who died in a fire, which has been described as a 'tragic accident'. The victim, named locally as Colin Dunn, aged in his 70s, died in the blaze on Sunday night in his garage on Six Ashes Road in Bobbington, near Stourbridge. Neighbours described Mr Dunn as a popular person who had lived in the village with his family for nearly four decades. Emergency services rushed to the scene at 6.50pm on Sunday. They found the garage well alight, with one man inside. He was declared dead at the scene. Sgt Lee Wareing of Staffordshire Police said: "This fire is not being treated as suspicious. Witness accounts indicate it was a tragic accident but we need to establish how the blaze started. "We anticipate it will be a few days before we have concluded our examination of the scene."



The 5th Dimension cycling team raised more than £1,500 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge

Tooling firm is making the community a priority

AN ENGINEERING firm set up by a pair of out-of-work toolmakers is now heading for turnover of £2.3 million after winning work from aerospace and automotive companies. Gary Wood and Gerry Hart set up 5th Dimension Tooling in 2009 after losing their jobs in the collapse of a Wednesbury toolmaking firm. The duo were joined by former workmate Neil Greenwood. Together the trio earned the support of customers of their former company, winning work and expanding their client base. The company has now grown to employ 14 and has just tripled the size of its factory on Tipton's Brymill Industrial Estate, taking on two additional units. 5th Dimension has a small team but is big on commitment to the local area. They recently raised £1,600 for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge with a 40-mile bike ride, backed by many of the firm's customers. "I'd really like to thank them all for their support in raising those funds," said Mr Wood. "We're just trying to give something back. "We only had a month's training but now we are looking to put together a team of four to take part in the Velo Birmingham next year."

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More than 100 calls to police over clowns

MORE than 100 calls were made from the Black Country to police over clowns in less than three weeks, shock figures reveal. From the bizarre to the serious – all kinds of 999 calls relating to clowns were made to West Midlands Police from Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall during the run-up to Halloween. The force responded in most cases but no immediate arrests were made from any of the calls. The calls ranged from a 'clowning sighting in a park' to 'people on a bus wearing clown masks' to 'threatened by clowns'. They took place from October 1 to 19. There were no reported incidents in September. In Walsall, 30 incidents were reported, in Sandwell there were 29, Dudley there were 23 and Wolverhampton there were 19. A spokesman for the force said: "We're not aware of any other recent incidents."

Hysteria

The figures reflect the hysteria caused by the 'killer clown craze' that spread from America. Childline Birmingham was contacted 73 times by children afraid of clowns in October. Nationally, the service was contacted 462 times, with 84 clown-related counselling sessions on one day alone. Police advised people not to like social media pages dedicated to the creepy clown trend in which people dress as clowns to scare people. The craze may have been inspired by Pennywise the clown, a malevolent character played by actor Tim Curry in the 1990 TV series based on the horror novel It by US author Stephen King. One of the incidents in the Black Country involved a 22-year-old woman in Bloxwich High Street. Shaniece Price was driving when she videoed the man in a mask with long red hair running towards her car. Miss Price, who works in a betting shop, said she fled into a nearby pub but the clown followed her and stood in the doorway. In another incident a boy with a clown mask, approached a 14-year-old in Swan Lane, West Bromwich, grabbing his arm. A photograph of clown reportedly lurking outside McDonald's in Kidderminster was posted on Facebook page Clown Sightings In The UK. The craze turned so serious it started impacting professional children's entertainers. Bridgnorth-based Flip the clown said: "All this is negative publicity that is not beneficial to those of us who earn a living working as clowns."

By Alex Ross

Broken boiler forces tree ceremony move

THE Mary Stevens Hospice have been forced to move the annual Oldswinford Tree of Light ceremony to the Great Hall at Oldswinford Hospital School. The service normally takes place at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford but due to a broken boiler, which can't be fixed before the service on November 26, the hospice have made alternative arrangements. The service will now take place at the later time of 4:30pm, to allow for anyone who arrives at the church to make their way over to the alternative venue. Chaplain David Knight said: "It's a great shame as we have always held the service in the church and it provides a stunning and poignant backdrop to a very moving ceremony. However, we are incredibly grateful to Oldswinford Hospital for stepping in." Visit www.facebook.com/marystevenshospice/events for further information or call (01384) 377778.

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Inspirational Ted's on song with his life story

THE story of the 'Songamminute Man' is due to be published next in year, his son has confirmed.

The remarkable journey of Ted McDermott, who grew up in the Black Country, will be published by HQ, a division of Harper Collins UK – as told by his son, Simon.

The inspirational 80-year-old who suffers from Alzheimers, became an internet sensation earlier this year when his son filmed him singing along to Quando, Quando, Quando.

In an extraordinary adventure, Ted, with the help of his son, has raised more than £130,000 for the Alzheimer's Society charity and hit the charts after signing to record label Decca in a whirlwind few months.

The Songamminute Man will tell this remarkable story in full, going into detail on Ted, who was previously a Butlin's Redcoat and a much-loved and talented entertainer, who plied his trade in the clubs of the Black Country before relocating north in the 1960s.

Difference

The news comes after Simon and Ted were awarded for their achievement and presented a Pride of Britain Award for Special Recognition.

Simon said: "Not in my wildest dreams did I ever think that driving Dad to the supermarket and having a singalong would make such a huge difference not only to his own life, but to so many other people around the world."

"Since the video went viral we have received thousands of messages from



The 80-year-old outside Abbey Road



Ted and Simon, in the car they sing in

with a loved one's dementia. Being the eldest of 14 children and working as an entertainer for a number of decades, Dad has had a rich and varied life with hundreds of stories to tell. It's my privilege and duty to be able to tell it for him at a time when he can't do it himself."

Rachel Kenny, Senior Commissioning Editor at HQ, said: "This is real home-grown, feel-good, true-life story territory."

"With the evocative nostalgia of 40s to 80s Britain on the one-hand, a touching snapshot of a lifelong father-son bond on the other, plus a nod to modern technology's amazing ability to take that snapshot and use it to inspire and move millions – The Songamminute Man has huge cross-generational appeal and mass-market potential."

The Songamminute Man will be published in autumn 2017 in hardback, ebook and audio download.



Award – Simon with Cliff Richard and Joan Collins

across the globe – many of which describe how Dad's voice has brought so much joy and inspiration – especially to those families who are also dealing

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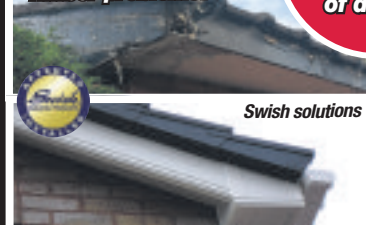


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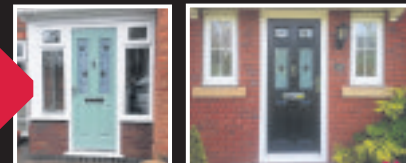


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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



Generations united at the Drumhead service in Wolverhampton



The uniformed parade at Stourbridge during Remembrance Day



The solemn scene at Dudley Cenotaph on Sunday as the Black Country remembered



The Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif lays a wreath



A salute for fallen comrades during the Drumhead service at Wolverhampton

Silence for the heroes

THE Black Country joined the rest of the country in falling silent on Remembrance Sunday in honour of the men and women who gave their lives for their country.

Services were held across the region as thousands gathered around cenotaphs and memorials to reflect on the sacrifices made during two world wars and other conflicts.

Hundreds of people came out to pay their respects and join the two minute silences held at 11am.

More than 3,000 people turned out in Dudley

town centre to honour the fallen on Remembrance Sunday. A parade marched through the streets of the town centre, arriving at the Cenotaph in time for the two minutes' silence at 11am.

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mohammed Hanif led the laying of wreaths on behalf of organisations and private individuals at the Cenotaph.

Several other services were also held across the borough, including at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge where a large crowd gathered at the war memorial.

The annual parade was held in Wolverhampton as The Band of the Mercian Regiment

marched through the city centre towards St Peter's Church where an outdoor Drumhead service, the traditional form for a religious service attended by troops in the field, was held.

A large crowd attended at Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge for a service at the war memorial.

Other Remembrance events were held in the Dudley borough, including at St James' Church in Gornal and St Peter's Church in Cradley. Parades were held across Sandwell, with major events at Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich and outside Smethwick Council House. A large crowd was at Tipton's Victoria Park to join the proceedings around the war memorial.

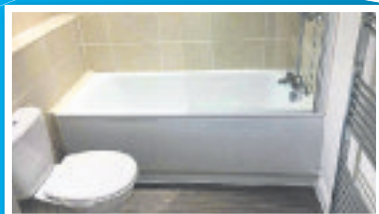


There was not a spare seat to be had at Dudley's Cenotaph ceremony

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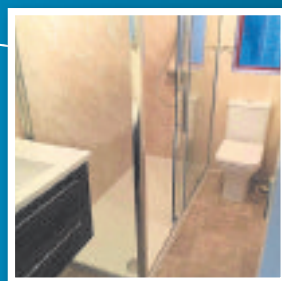
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God appears to two! Come hear more...



On the 30th November 1987, Jesus Christ appeared to a young medical doctor, now a Consultant Physician in the West Midlands. That experience changed his life.

On the 29th January 2016, Jesus Christ appeared to a 69-year-old man in Walsall- his life has been totally changed. Planet Ministries invites you to hear their story. This will open the door for you to the biggest experience of your life.

You may ask why? Almighty God of Jesus Christ is not a respecter of persons, the experience He gave to them, He wants to give that experience to you too.

His word says: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8)

Dr Max Matonhodze- an apostle (special messenger) of Jesus Christ

Born in Zimbabwe, came to know Jesus Christ as an undergraduate in August 1980. On the 30th

November 1987, he entered his bedroom just after midnight and what he saw was a large ball of bright, incandescent, dazzling light. As the light deemed, Jesus Christ stood at the centre of the light and gave him a special message for every person including you.

Dr Max came to the United Kingdom on divine instruction in December 1993 and trained to be a Respiratory Medicine Specialist and has held a post as a Consultant Physician for the past 14 years. He has a message for you from God **"Almighty God is inviting you to live in His presence."** This message will change your life. Jesus Christ wants to touch your spirit, soul and your body. Dr Max and his wife Joyce invite you

John Tidesley (Not real name as we need to protect his identity)

69 years from Walsall, West Midlands. Troubled with leg weakness due to Multiple Sclerosis, epilepsy, COPD. Under various medical specialists his condition deteriorated and needed to use a wheelchair and oxygen from a cylinder to help him breathe.

On the 29th January 2016, following an epileptic seizure at about 2 am, at the end of his tether and on the verge of taking his own life, he reached out to his phone, to send a farewell message to his wife. At that moment a text message sent from Planet Ministries flushed on his phone!

"Jesus Christ is the light of the world, he who walks with him will never walk in darkness."

As he read that message, his whole room lit up with a bright light at the centre of which was the figure of a man. He was shown the heavenly city and then a full video of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Following this encounter, John lives without a wheelchair or oxygen. Totally transformed. He is now going up and down the country teaching people to believe in God. He wants you to hear from him. It will change your life.

What you need to do now?

Reserve a place at the Christmas Convention <http://planetministries.org.uk/events>

Admission is FREE of charge and dress code is smart casual. The Venue is:

St John's Church, St John's Road, Kateshill, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7JT

Dates and time:

Friday 16th December 7 - 9pm
Saturday 17th December 2 - 5pm
Saturday 17th December 7 - 9pm
Sunday 18th December 10:30 - 2pm

Preview the audio of John Tidesley's story at <http://planetministries.org.uk/message/testimony>

Planet Ministries

**Christmas Convention
16th to 18th December 2016**

Register online: <http://planetministries.org.uk/events> Life changing event

Thief strikes as woman kneels at veteran's grave

A THIEF stole a grandmother's handbag as she laid poppies at the grave of her war veteran father on Remembrance Day.

The callous crook seized an opportunity to strike, snatching the bag from the passenger footwell of Rita Herrington's car as she knelt at the grave just a few yards away.

Her husband Terry attempted to give chase after noticing the Michael Kors bag had been stolen but tripped and hit his face on the ground, cutting his nose and hands.

The elderly couple, from Swindon, near Wall Heath, were left shaken after the incident at about 3pm on Friday. The grandparents had parked at Dudley Cemetery so Mrs Herrington, 75, could put a Remembrance Cross and poppies on the grave of her father Fred Russon, who fought in the First World War. He survived the war and died at the age of 69.

Running

Their Vauxhall Meriva had been left unlocked as they had not seen anybody around and were only stopping for a few minutes. But within minutes Mr Herrington, 79, turned to see a man, thought to be aged in his late teens or early 20s, running off with the bag towards a dark blue car.

The bag contained bank cards, a small amount of change and photographs of the couple's daughters.

Mr Herrington said: "We're normally very careful but there was nobody in the graveyard. I happened to turn and saw this figure grabbing my wife's bag. I ran after him but tripped. Once I had fallen they had gone."

Mr Herrington, an engineer for almost 50 years at Smiths Aerospace in Wolverhampton, said he was disgusted that someone could target a cemetery, particularly on Remembrance Day.



Victims of theft – Rita and Terry Herrington recovering at their home

High Street's last bank closes

A BLACK Country High Street will be left without a bank after Lloyds announced it would be axing a branch early next year.

Shoppers in Lye have seen banks disappear in recent years and will be facing a trip to Stourbridge if they want to go into a branch.

Concerns have been raised about the lack of access to banks in Lye and the inconvenience customers will face if they need to speak to someone face-to-face about their finances.

People will still be able to access money from two cashpoints on the High Street but, from March when the Lye branch closes, there will no longer be any banks on the High Street.

It was revealed last week that the banking giant would be cutting 520 jobs as part of a three-year restructuring plan and it is to close 49 branches in 2017.

Bosses said the closures reflected a reduction in the number of branch customers due to online banking.



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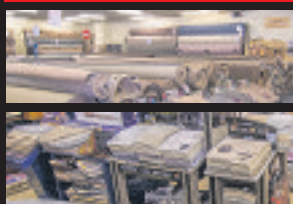
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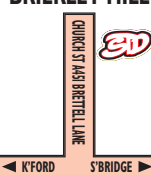
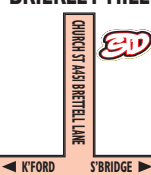
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Glorious sunshine and sights in Cyprus

MY 'Cyprus' board on Pinterest was bulging with beautiful images weeks before we travelled.

Crystal blue waters, golden sands, quiet beaches and a little white church just metres from the beach glistening in the sunlight were among them. It looked perfect. When we arrived at Kalamies beach in Pernera on our first day, we were met with the exact scene I'd been obsessively collecting for weeks.

Even better, our villa was just a five-minute stroll away. We cracked open the first of many bottles of Keo at a beachside restaurant and took in the view.

Beautiful golden sands, year-round sunshine and delicious, fresh cuisine make Cyprus a magnet for holiday-makers. It's a manageable four-and-a-half hour flight from Birmingham Airport, and flying that bit closer to the equator in June meant we were guaranteed sunshine – even though at 35C (95F) it was a bit stifling at times.



Pernera is a small, pretty little harbour town on the edge of Protaras, a purpose-built resort on the southeastern coast. We were staying in a three-bedroom villa called Crystal Lagoon.

It was the first foreign holiday with our young son, and we hoped a villa would give us space and flexibility, while being close to all the amenities we needed.

With three bathrooms and a large open plan living, dining and kitchen area, it was a great base. We're not recluses, but we like to do our own thing and have our own space, so the flexibility of a house worked better for us than a hotel.

One luxury was our own private pool surrounded by lush gardens – and thanks to the baking hot temperatures, it was a daily joy to jump into and cool off. Our 13-month-old loved it too.

The villa was on a quiet cul-de-sac but minutes away from shops, restaurants and bars. Three supermarkets are within a two-minute walk, while Parkonas pool bar – five minutes' away – serves great value meals and rather strong cocktails in a pristine setting with a huge pool and free sunbeds for customers.

Our favourite place, however, became Kalamies restaurant at the bottom of the road. Set right on the edge of the beach serving traditional Greek food, we couldn't find a better located place to eat, with the views simply breathtaking.

The bright white walls of tiny Agios Nikolaos church set against the cloudless sky and the Mediterranean is a sight we won't forget in a while.

Busier and more bustling Protaras is a leisurely 30-minute walk along a relatively new promenade which winds its way along the coastline. We walked it twice, the second time at sunset being the most rewarding.

There are dozens of bars and open-air restaurants in the town. During the day, Fig Tree Bay is one of Protaras' main attractions, but we found it too busy and couldn't wait to head back to the quieter sands in Pernera. One of our favourite things to do became going to the beach at 5pm, when it was still warm but the sun was going down and all the local families came out to play.

If 24-hour partying's your bag, Avia Napa is a 15-minute drive away. Boat trips go daily from Pernera's Golden Coast Harbour to Cape Greco, a collection of sea caves surrounded by crystal clear water, and the ghost town of Famagusta. Once one of the island's most glamorous resorts, it has been abandoned for more than 40 years after being invaded by Turkish forces.

The sight of desolate blocks of hotels, apartments, shops and homes was in startling contrast to the thriving coastline we'd enjoyed.

A short drive away are the villages of Sotira and Liopetri, offering a more authentic Cypriot experience. We didn't hire a car but if we went again we definitely would – left-hand driving and good roads making it a much less scary experience for novice holiday drivers like me and my wife.

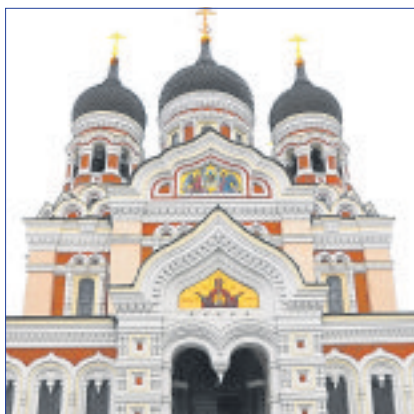
We visited a great restaurant in Sotira, recommended to us by a Coventry ex-pat we met on the plane, who is now living in Larnaca. The staff at Paneri Tavern were so welcoming.

We weren't expecting a relaxing holiday with a one-year-old in tow, but thanks to a fabulous and well-equipped villa, in a friendly, beautiful picture-postcard town, we came away after seven days feeling the most rested we'd been since becoming parents. And what a bold statement that is.

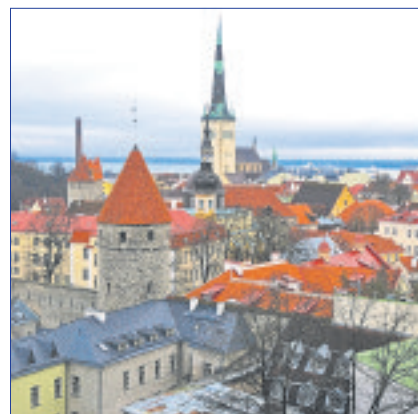
By Mike Woods



The Christmas market on Town Hall Square



The city also has some spectacular architecture



A view of the 14th Century Epping Tower

Christmas magic in bargain-rich Tallinn

CHRISTMAS shopping trips to European cities have become a popular pastime in recent years and, as preparations get underway for the festive Advent markets, the latest Post Office Travel Money City Costs Barometer suggests that cities in Eastern Europe will be a smart choice for bargain-hunters this autumn.

The temperature may be low but so are prices, while the atmosphere is decidedly hot. And, based on my own experience, there is no doubt that Estonian capital Tallinn fits that description perfectly.

There is nothing quite like a dusting of snow to get you in the mood for Christmas and that is exactly what we found on arriving in Tallinn for our shopping break. Soaring spires, turrets and towers, and winding cobbled streets are a romantic sight at the best of times but, cloaked in a covering of snow, this old medieval city becomes almost impossibly so. Even with snow underfoot you can walk from one side of the old town to the other in less than half an hour so it is a great place to explore without the need for any transport – but pack sensible shoes.

From our hotel base by the 14th century Epping Tower, it was a 10-minute stroll into the city's Town Hall Square, which hosts the 60-or so wooden Christmas Market stalls. The market is a jolly affair on a much smaller scale than many other European ones but with the benefit of more local arts and crafts and fewer baubles. We saw expertly-crafted wooden toys, designer ceramics, patchwork quilts and lashings of mulled wine and gingerbread.

We picked up a beautiful pair of juniper wood salad servers for €10 (around £9.25) which were identical to the ones we bought for more than twice that price in New England a couple of years ago. So we bought two sets!

The little streets – mostly cobbled – leading from Town Hall Square are also treas-

HOLIDAYS

By Chris Higham

ure troves for local arts and crafts. The best examples are the artisan shops, galleries and workshops along St. Catherine's Passage and in Master's Court. We did all our Christmas shopping at a fraction of the cost in smart UK shops and found exquisite leather notebooks (Tallinn is world-famous for its leather work), sleek ceramics, hand-painted silk scarves and stylish metal jewellery. The Post Office survey is right – Tallinn is great value because our shopping haul cost less than £150 and we had gifts for all the family to show for it.

On the lane leading up to the onion-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral on Toompea Hill are galleries showing the most exclusive locally-made gifts – wall high silk hangings, artwork fashioned from felt and endless elaborately-knitted scarves, gilets and gloves. Excellent for special presents, we looked longingly but they were beyond our budget.

Not so the food in Tallinn's restaurants which is really good value and surprisingly varied. We didn't have a single poor meal during our three-day stay in Tallinn and never came close to busting our budget. Even the fillet steak and rack of lamb served up in one of the smartest restaurants – D.O.M. on Town Hall Square – came in at under £40 including a bottle of wine. There's plenty of sightseeing at sensible prices for culture vultures too and €42 (around £38.50) will get you a 48 hour Tallinn Card, which includes free entry to 40 museums and other attractions, a city sightseeing tour and free public transport. Start on Toompea Hill where the trio of must-sees comprises the Russian Orthodox cathedral, the rather older 13th century St Mary's Cathedral and the elegant Estonian Parliament building.

Or you may prefer to soak in the sights of the old town, punctuated with comfort breaks to sample Tallinn's much-admired craft beers!



Plenty of goodies at bargain prices in Tallinn, Estonia's vibrant capital city

Plenty of choice for festive breaks with coach firm



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There are nearly 20 departures to choose from for your Christmas or New Year break – all with a variety of destinations, durations and departure dates.

Plus there are still a limited number of single rooms available on some tours.

Johnsons Coaches has also just launched its

new 2017 summer programme which includes 225 departures between March and October 2017 including 55 new tours or itineraries.

All holidays include free home pick up; a courier service; top quality hotels with dinner, bed and breakfast; and all excursions and attractions.

You can book on to Johnsons Coaches' Summer 17 event at British Motor Museum on Saturday, November 19 now.

Departing from eight local boarding points the event includes coach travel, coffee and Danish pastry on arrival, sandwich lunch, a presentation of the Summer 2017 programme, and entry to the British Motor Museum.

Tickets are £14 per person and are selling fast. To book your Johnsons holiday please call 01564 797000 for your free copy of their brochures or visit their website www.johnsonscaches.co.uk to book online and save £9.

A fresh new look with Ever Shine

23

Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 17, 2016

Commercial feature

WOLVERHAMPTON-based Ever Shine Windows Ltd is a small independent family business specialising in windows, doors, conservatories and porches.

The company has been trading for more than six years and during that time has built up an enviable reputation for providing the best products at the best price.

The company prides itself on making sure each and every installation is performed to the highest standards.

Its double glazing products are of top quality, highly secure and come with an up to 10 year back-up guarantee.

In addition Ever Shine is a FENSA and QANW registered company and complies fully with the latest government legislation.

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As leading fabricators and installers of uPVC products, in particular uPVC such as windows, doors and composite doors the company has a proud boast that it will ensure that customers old and new get top quality products delivered ON TIME - EVERY TIME.

The company manufactures the Profile22 Optima fully sculptured profile, which it offers in a wide range of varieties and colours.

With hundreds of customers nationwide Ever Shine has accumulated a vast array of experience in dealing with both the trade, domestic and commercial but also likes to keep a local focus to serve the Midlands residents and businesses.

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Hard at work as Baljit Singh puts the finishing touches

says Company Director Ricky Mattu. "The team has been trained to be polite and respectful to you our valued customer"

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home as we found it whatever the size of the project," he adds.

"Ever Shine Windows Ltd is a company that cares without being pushy or insincere.

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From left: Ricky (Director), Cecilia (Office Manager), Chelsea (Office Junior) and VJ (Sales Co-Ordinator)

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And customer Mr S Potts comments "We were very pleased with the conservatory and the new windows.

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Phantom of Love goes to auction

IT is one of the most famous Rolls-Royce cars ever created – and it was designed and made in Wolverhampton.

Inspired by an 18th century royal sedan chair, it features stunning tapestry, concealed seats and its very own drinks cabinet.

Affectionately known as The Phantom of Love, it is expected to fetch up to £700,000 when it goes under the hammer in London next month.

But the story behind the 1926 Phantom I is very much centred on Wolverhampton.

It was built for American businessman Clarence Gasque as a gift for his wife Maude, a Woolworth's heiress, who had a passion for French 18th century history and design.

Inspired

As such Gasque wanted it to have a French theme but he left the entire design to Wolverhampton-based coach-builders, Charles Clark and Sons.

With no limit on budget, the firm's owner, John Barnett, set about his task and was inspired by using a Marie Antoinette sedan chair he had come across at the Victoria and Albert Museum as a model.

The result was an unrivalled piece of decadence more resembling the throne room at Versailles than the inside of a car. Naked cherubs feature prominently in the exotic interior, appearing in painted scenes on the ceiling and as lighting supports at the rear corners.

On delivery, the Rolls-Royce cost £6,500, of which £4,500 had been spent on the interior. At the time £500 could have bought a house.

It is being sold by Bonhams auctioneers at their Bond Street sale on December 4. Bonhams' Senior Motor Car Specialist, Rob Hubbard, said: "Extensively illustrated and described



Cherubs feature in exotic interior



Sign of supremacy



Built as a gift, no expense was spared on this Rolls Royce

in numerous books and magazine articles about the Rolls-Royce marque, The Phantom of Love is, arguably, the most famous surviving Rolls-Royce after 'Axe 201', the factory owned 1907 Silver Ghost.

"Unique and well documented, it is without question one of the very finest examples of art and craftsmanship applied to an automobile."

The lavish car recently caught the eye of petrolhead and former Top Gear host Chris Evans who was allowed a test drive.

Afterwards, he said: "First to second was continuously sticky, but with second to third much smoother and heaps of torque available from the huge 7.7-litre engine, we quickly began to get a better understanding of each other."



Poundland founder Steve Smith at his luxury pad – car not included but this luxury swimming pool is



Poundland home is a cut price at £5.25m

THE founder of Poundland is selling his mansion for a cut price £5.25 million. Businessman Steve Smith, originally from Portobello, Willenhall, put Hammer Hill House on the market for £6.5 million in 2014.

The price dropped to £5.75m last year. Now the house, which has 28.2 acres of land, including four paddocks, is at £5.25m. Mr Smith bought the property for around £2.2m 11 years ago.

He set up discount chain Poundland in 1990, and there are now 500 UK stores. He sold his share in the business in 2002, making himself a £50 million fortune, which helped him buy Hammer Hill House.

The property was originally designed by Sir Bertram Clough Williams-Ellis, who created the Italianate village of Portmeirion in North Wales. It has 13 bedrooms, an indoor swimming pool, snooker room, and nearly 30 acres of countryside. It also has two three-bedroom gate houses and a helipad.



All 13 bedrooms are lavishly furnished and decorated

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Mvula-ing on up – P 27

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Father Christmas

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www.raysfarm.com

Madeleine Peyroux



Monday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The French-American jazz singer returns with *Secular Hymns*, an album recorded in an Oxfordshire church, including songs by Tom Waits, Willie Dixon, Lee Dorsey and Allen Toussaint. See www.thsh.co.uk

Slaves



Saturday, 7pm
O2 Academy, Birmingham
Kent punk duo Isaac Holman and Laurie Vincent bring their fearsome live show to the Second City to perform songs from their new album. See academymusicgroup.com/o2academybirmingham

PiL



Today, 7pm
O2 Institute, Birmingham
After kick-starting punk with The Sex Pistols, John Lydon went on to pioneer a unique sound with Public Image Ltd, here supported by Dreadzone. See www.academymusicgroup.com/o2institutebirmingham

Roadstars



Tuesday, 7.30pm
Robin 2, Bilston
The Roadstars tour brings a blues rock triple bill featuring Nashville power trio Simo (guitarist JD Simo pictured), Oxford teen guitar sensation Aaron Keylock plus Federal Charn. See therobin.co.uk

JAZZ, SOUL, BLUES, MOTOWN & REGGAE

Urban Intro
Tonight - tomorrow, £5 - £10
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

Walsall Jazz Orchestra
Mon,
Forest Arts Centre, Walsall, WS3 1AG.
Call 01922 654555

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth, Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

The Chase Jazzmen
Tue, 8pm - 10.30pm
The Boycott Arms, Claverley, Wolverhampton, WV5 7DH.
Call 01746 710479

Johnny2bad (A tribute to UB40)
Thu,
The Jam House, Birmingham, B31QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

ROCK & METAL

Black Sabbath Tribute: Children Of The Gravy + special guests Tyrannosaurus Nebulous
Tonight, £6
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Lifford Lane, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Too REX - UK's Marc Bolan/T.Rex Tribute
Tomorrow,
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Lifford Lane, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Gin Annie Band
Tomorrow, £6 - £7.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 01902 401211

Queen Extravaganza
Tomorrow,
Symphony Hall, The International Convention Centre, Birmingham, B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

The Vapors + The Circles
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Pete Wylie & The Mighty WAH!
Tomorrow,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

Cabbage + Release + Broken Flags
Tomorrow, £6
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991
Queen - Supreme Queen

Tomorrow, £9
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Army Of Bones
Sun,
The Asylum, Birmingham, B19 3LS.
Call 0121 233 1109

Jimmy Eat World
Sun,
O2 Academy Birmingham, B1 1DB.
Call 0121 622 8250

The Solid Gold Rock n Roll Show
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011 and
Thurs,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE.
Call 01902 42 92 12

Honeyblood + Pins + Fears Chella
Mon, £10
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1DR.
Call 01782 214991

Joe Brown Solo Show - 'Just Joe' + special guest Henry Gross
Tue - Wed,
Solihull Arts Complex, Central Library, Touchwood, B91 3RG.
Call 0121 704 6962

Elvis - In Concert - Live On Screen
Tue,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

Martin Turner ex-Wishbone Ash
Tue, £17.50
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

The Illegal Eagles
Wed, £21
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

Terrorvision
Wed,
Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ. Call 01902 552122

Rumours of Fleetwood Mac 'Hits to Blues Tour'
Wed, £27.44 - £38.64
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277

POP

Jess Glynne
Tonight,
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT. Call 0121 780 4141

Simply Red
Sun
Genting Arena, Birmingham, B40 1NT.
Call 0121 780 4141

That'll Be The Day: Christmas Show
Sun, £22 - £26
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

David Essex
Thu,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

CLASSICAL

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

In Paradisum: Requiems by Faure and Duruflé
Tomorrow,
Ladywood ARC, St John's and St Peter's Church, Birmingham, B16 8TF.
See <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/event/EHHMKL>

COUNTRY, FOLK & ACOUSTIC

Chris Bannister performs The Music of John Denver
Tomorrow, £12.50 - £15
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD.
Call 01905 611427

Traditional Music Session
Sun,
The Prince of Wales Moseley, Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

Peter Knight's Gigsanner
Wed, £17
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Folk & Roots Club
Thu, Free
The RoadHouse Birmingham, Lifford Lane, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Marcus Brigstocke: Why The Long Face?
Tonight, £16
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Jerry Sadowitz. Comedian, Magician, Psychopath! 2016
Tonight,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

Andrew Lawrence: The Hate Speech Tour
Tonight, £15
Huntingdon Hall, CrownGate Shopping Centre, Worcester, WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

White Yardies' First One Man Show: Straight Outta Jamaica
Tomorrow,
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Nish Kumar
Thu,
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

THEATRE

The Commitments
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 1AP. Call 0844 871 7649

A Christmas Carol - Junior Production 2016
Tonight,
Ruddock Performing Arts Centre, King Edward's School, Birmingham, B15 2UA.
Call 0121 472 9585

Looking For John
Tonight - tomorrow, £10 - £13.50
Birmingham REP Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

The Full Monty
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Legally Blonde The Musical
Tomorrow, £13 - £15
Mitchell Arts Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 4HG.
Call 01782 409307

Shakespeare, His Wife and The Dog
Mon - Wed, £10 - £13.50
Birmingham REP Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Our House
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Austentatious
Thu,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 871580

Relatively Speaking
Tomorrow - Thu,
The Crescent Theatre, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B16 8AE. Call 0121 643 5858

George's Marvellous Medicine
Tue - Thu, £21
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

Behind Bars: Does Prison Work?
Thu,
Birmingham REP Library of Birmingham, B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

ARTS & CULTURE

Ballet Black: Triple Bill featuring Storyville
Tonight,
Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.
Call 01543 412121

An Introduction to Elgar
Today, £18.95
Elgar Birthplace Museum, Lower Broadheath, Worcester, WR2 6RH.
Call 01905 333 224

Chris Salmon ARBSA
Tomorrow,
RBSA Gallery, Birmingham, B3 1SA.
Call 0121 236 4353

MISC. EVENTS

The Spanish Riding School of Vienna
Tonight - Sun,
Barclaycard Arena, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Music and Dance from Around the World
Tomorrow, £5 - £10
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

The greatest adventure: Love in the time of Tinder
Globe at Hay,
Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, HR3 5BG.
Call 01497 821762

Street Dance Telford
Sun,
Oakengates Theatre, Telford, TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

American Style Wrestling
Sun, £5
The River Rooms, Stourbridge, DY8 1JN.
Call 01384 397 177 or 07986 577 661

Family fun at Sarehole Mill, Birmingham with live music, streetfood, food, craft market and beer
Sun,
Sarehole Mill, Birmingham, B13 0BD. Call 0121 348 8160

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Don't be chicken at marvellous play



A scene from George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl being performed by The Birmingham Stage Company

A STAGE version of George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl is coming to delight family audiences at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday (November 22) to December 3.

First published in 1981 George's Marvellous Medicine is one of Dahl's funniest stories, all about a young boy who makes a marvellous new medicine to cure his grandmother of her terrifying temper. But when his

grandmother drinks his special potion the results are explosive!

Since 1992 The Birmingham Stage Company have produced more Dahl shows than any other company. Recent hits have also included Horrible Histories and the world premiere of Gangsta Granny by David Walliams.

George's Marvellous Medicine is adapted by David Wood, the UK's leading children's playwright. Ed Thorpe is in the title role with the

part of Granny played by Deborah Vale whose twin sister, Tessa will play her 'daughter', George's Mum. Other roles are taken by Tom Eyklo-hof (as a feisty chicken) and Richard Mullins (Dad). Phil Clark directs.

BSC founder Neal Foster said: "We are delighted to be celebrating the centenary of Roald Dahl's birth with this special production." For tickets call 0844 871 3011 or visit atgtickets.com/Birmingham



Laura lives the dream

BIRMINGHAM supply teacher-turned-soul star Laura Mvula grew up in the suburbs of Selly Park and Kings Heath before her debut album Sing To The Moon catapulted her to fame.

She won two MOBO Awards, an Urban Music Award and was nominated for three BRITs, a Q Award and an Ivor Novello. It's an impressive haul for a humble, feet-on-the-ground performer, who will return to her home city on Saturday to headline the O2 Institute.

In the summer Laura released her second album The Dreaming Room, played at Glastonbury and V Festivals and took part in the David Bowie Prom at London's Albert Hall.

She was classically trained at Birmingham Conservatoire and had little time to adjust to her new-found success and the fame it has brought.

"I'm not sure how natural a thing it is to exist so publicly as a human," she says.

Laura made her new record while experiencing a dark time of divorce and anxiety but says the process has helped her to grow as a person.

"Before, everything felt so ultimate to me. I've grown up a little bit, and by taking the music more seriously I take myself a bit less seriously, which is helpful."

The foundation song for her new album is the ballad Show Me Love.

"It's become the cornerstone of the record. There's an old church song we used to sing at funerals: It is Well With My Soul. When I listen to this music I feel whole. I feel so at home in myself."

Venues turn the clock back to 1979

BIG names from the New Wave and punk era have gigs coming up this weekend. John Lydon (formerly Johnny Rotten) brings PiL to the O2 Institute in Digbeth on Friday (November 18).

Liverpudlian rock icon Pete 'The Story of the Blues' Wylie brings his Mighty WAH! to the O2 Academy 3 venue on Saturday. Wylie recently released his first new album in 16 years, entitled Pete Sounds!

The Vapors, who had a hit with Turning Japanese in 1980, have reformed and have a gig at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on Saturday. Support comes from Wolverhampton '70s Mod Revival outfit The Circles.

Rep homage to a gay sporting icon

IN 1976 19 million watched Birmingham skater John Curry win Olympic gold for Britain in the men's figure skating at Innsbruck. He was BBC Sports Personality of the Year.

But unlike some Olympic heroes, Curry seems to have slipped out of the public consciousness since his AIDS-related death in 1994, at the age of 44. Now actor and writer Tony Timberlake aims to revive the reputation of the 'Nureyev of the Ice', a gay sporting icon, in his one-man show at Birmingham Rep's The Door venue, Looking For John, which opened last night (Wednesday) and continues until Saturday.

Getting heavy - we're ready to rock

IT'S a great week ahead for rockers with Kentucky's Black Stone Cherry in action at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Tuesday and then Yorkshire's reformed Terrorvision, fronted by Tony Wright, at the Wulfrun Hall on Wednesday.

Roger Taylor's official Queen Extravaganza, featuring Canadian singer Marc Martel in a line-up hand picked by Taylor and Brian May, has sold out Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday night. That's the same night Irish rockers The Answer have filled the O2 Academy 2 and Chicago's SOiL play the O2 Institute. Aussies Airbourne play the Institute on Tuesday.

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CHOICE



Freddie Mercury

The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever? (Channel 5, 9pm)
Documentary made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen frontman's death, which explores two of the most important years in his life, from the band's iconic performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985 to his diagnosis with Aids in 1987. The programme examines his struggle to keep his private life out of the tabloids and to continue recording music in the face of his failing health. Featuring contributions from family and friends, including chauffeur and bodyguard Terry Giddings, who shares his account of the final years for the first time.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 7.25 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Sunday Morning Live. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt.** (R) **1.15 BBC News: Weather. 1.30 Songs of Praise. 2.05 Live Four Nations Rugby League. The final (Kick-off 2.30pm).** **4.45 Planet Earth II.** (R) **5.45 BBC News. 6.05 Regional Programme. 6.15 Countryfile.** Matt Baker meets young RSPB rangers in West Yorkshire, while Anita Rani talks to a local author inspired by the landscape and told about an award-winning halloumi cheese producer from Syria. Naomi Wilkinson discovers the challenges facing the fire brigade at Ogden Water, Adam Henson celebrates English wine, and Tom Heap reports on how sheep farming may soon be impossible in some parts of Britain. **7.15 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present the results of last night's show from the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Featuring performances from Rick Astley and Simple Minds. **8.00 Planet Earth II.** Animals that live in jungles, including creatures that glow in the dark which have never been captured on film before, as well as freshwater dolphins and the largest living lemur. **9.00 My Mother and Other Strangers.** Francis and Seamie get mixed up in eel-poaching when they join the Hanlons on a supposed fishing trip, and Michael's cold behaviour pushes Rose towards Dreyfus. **10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional Programme. 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman presents highlights of the sole Premier League encounter of the day. **11.15 Sunny D.** New series. Comedy, written by and starring Dane Baptiste as a frustrated 29-year-old still living with his parents. Dane dreads a party to celebrate his dad's 65th birthday. **11.35 Getting High for God?** Part one of two. Mavaan Rizwan investigates the use of hallucinogenic by certain religions, beginning by travelling to Utah to spend time with the Oklevueha Native American Church. **12.05 Film:** Once. (2006) **1.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.35 BBC News.**

BBC2

6.15 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00 Glorious Gardens from Above.** (R) **7.45 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** (R) **8.15 Carol Klein's Plant Odyssey. 8.45 Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special.** (R) **9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.15 The Good Cook.** (R) **11.45 Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food.** (R) **12.15 MOTD2 Extra. 1.00 International Rugby Union. (R) 2.00 Film:** Dial M for Murder. (1954) **3.45 Escape to the Continent.** (R) **4.45 Heir Hunters.** (R) **5.15 Flog It! (R) 6.00 Live Tennis: ATP World Tour Finals.** Sue Barker presents coverage of the final at the O2 in London, where the showpiece event brings a conclusion to the ATP Tour for another season. Novak Djokovic continued his dominance over the men's game last year by securing this title with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Roger Federer, giving him a fifth victory overall and a fourth in succession. In fact, since 2003, only two men other than Djokovic and Federer have won this tournament, those being David Nalbandian in 2005, and Nikolay Davydenko in 2009. **9.00 Life and Death the Pentecostal Way.** Documentary exploring Britain's fastest-growing Christian denomination, following the congregation and staff at one of the country's oldest black-majority Pentecostal churches. **10.00 Black is the New Black.** Black British people who have succeeded in their chosen field discuss the challenges they and others have had to overcome, including tokenism, self-censorship and lack of capital. **10.30 Frankie Boyle's US Election Autopsy.** The comedian shares his thoughts on the US presidential election from London's Asylum Chapel. **11.10 QI XL.** Sandi Toksvil invites Jason Manford, Sara Pascoe, Jeremy Clarkson and Alan Davies to answer questions on the subject of 'noble rot' in an extended edition of the panel show. **11.55 Film: 8 Minutes Idle.** (2012) A lazy call centre employee is forced to secretly live in the office when his parents throw him out of the family home. Comedy, starring Tom Hughes and Antonia Thomas. **1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile: A Remembrance Sunday Special.** (R) **2.15 Holby City.** (R) **3.15 This is BBC Two.**

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. 6.20 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures.** (R) **6.45 Sooty.** (R) **6.55 Signed Stories.** (R) **7.00 Super 4.** (R) **7.15 Oddbods.** (R) **7.25 Scrambled! Scrambled! 7.30 Scrambled! Nerts & Monsters.** (R) **7.50 Scrambled! Horrid Henry.** (R) **8.10 Scrambled! Looped. 8.30 Scrambled! Thunderbirds Are Go. 9.05 Scrambled! Adventure Time.** (R) **9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Bear Grylls Survival School. 10.00 Peston on Sunday. 11.00 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy.** (R) **11.25 Let's Do Christmas with Gino & Mel.** (R) **12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 The Chase.** (R) **1.35 The X Factor.** (R) **3.00 Midsomer Murders.** (R) **5.00 Tipping Point.** (R) **6.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 Off Their Rockers.** Louis Walsh is the victim of a prank when he finds something suspicious in his suitcase. Plus, Joan gets help with her Tinder profile and Tony gets buried on the beach. **7.00 The Next Great Magician.** Stephen Mulhern and Rochelle Humes introduce another batch of acclaimed magic acts, with illusionist Josephine Lee setting up an unsuspecting family and Laura London sharing a drink with some of the Coronation Street cast in the Rovers Return. Paul Vu displays his amazing Rubik's cube skills, Rob Zabrecky freaks out Jaymi Hensley, Jimmy Bullard and Michelle Heaton at a haunted house, and South Korea's Seol Park demonstrates his take on the traditional cups and balls trick. **8.00 The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the results of last night's show, followed by a sing-off to determine which of the lowest scoring acts will be the next to leave the competition. **9.00 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here!** Ant and Dec present the celebrity challenge, as the famous faces continue their ordeal in the Australian jungle. **10.00 ITV News: Weather. 10.20 Peston on Sunday.** (R) **11.20 Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present. **12.15 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK. 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show.** (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40 Snowdonia Triathlon Festival. 7.05 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **7.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **7.55 Film: Inspector Gadget.** (1999) **9.30 Sunday Brunch. 12.30 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.00 The Big Bang Theory.** (R) **1.30 The Simpsons.** (R) **1.55 The Simpsons.** (R) **2.25 The Simpsons.** (R) **2.55 Film: The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.** (2010) Fantasy adventure, with Georgie Henley and Skandar Keynes. **9.05 Film: The Aristocats.** (1970) **6.35 Channel 4 News. 7.00 0 to 60mph: Britain's Fastest Kids.** Documentary about three children on the professional go-kart racing circuit and the parents who support them through gruelling training and the pursuit of sponsorship deals as they work towards becoming Formula 1 drivers when they grow up. While two families are able to spend large sums of money on their children's ambitions, 10-year-old Fenn Chapman, who has found the sport useful in managing his autism, is unable to join a professional team and faces competitors with much higher budgets. **8.00 The Lost Lotus: Restoring a Race Car.** Phil Glenister and Ant Anstead restore a 1950s Lotus Elite that was designed and built by Formula 1 engineer Colin Chapman as a prototype for a production model that followed. They plan to take it on to the track at Silverstone for the biggest classic car event of the year – even though this risks the vehicle being damaged before it can be sold at auction. **9.00 Humans.** Mia and Ed's secret is discovered, Hester's influence creates conflict between Leo and Max, and the outcome of the trial looks bleak for Niska, until Laura calls a surprise witness. **10.00 Gogglebox.** (R) **11.05 Film: Tower Heist.** (2011) The manager of an apartment complex recruits a thief to steal back his friends' pension fund from a Wall Street fraudster. Crime comedy, starring Ben Stiller. **1.05 The Last Leg.** (R) **2.00 Flying to the Ends of the Earth.** (R) **2.55 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces.** (R) **3.50 Location, Location, Location.** (R) **4.45 The Common Denominator.** (R) **5.10 Deal or No Deal.** (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. 6.05 Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.10 Peppa Pig.** (R) **6.15 Angelina Ballerina.** (R) **6.25 Bots the Builder.** (R) **6.40 Wandia and the Alien.** (R) **6.50 Zack and Quack.** (R) **7.00 Seaside Antics.** (R) **7.05 Fireman Sam.** (R) **7.20 Pip Ahoy! (R) 7.30 Little Princess.** (R) **7.45 Paw Patrol.** (R) **8.05 Blaze and the Monster Machines. 8.30 Noddy in Toyland.** (R) **8.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.05 Shimmer and Shine.** (R) **9.25 Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.35 Peppa Pig.** (R) **9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** (R) **9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.** (R) **10.30 Football on 5: The Championship.** (R) **11.30 Football on 5: Goal Rush.** (R) **12.00 The Gadget Show.** (R) **1.00 Film: The Perfect Holiday.** (2007) **2.50 Film: Window Wonderland.** (2013) Premiere. **4.30 Film: A Puppy for Christmas.** (2016) Premiere. Festive romantic comedy, starring Cindy Busby. **6.20 Film: The Christmas Note.** (2015) Premiere. After moving back home before Christmas, a disillusioned woman finds a new purpose when she helps her neighbour look for a missing sibling. Drama, with Jamie-Lynn Sigler. Includes 5 News at 7.10pm. **8.00 Ice Road Truckers.** A fight for survival begins when two rival companies pull a cat train over the frozen Hudson Bay. Disaster strikes as the ice cracks under the heavy load. **8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 The Freddie Mercury Story: Who Wants to Live Forever?** Documentary made to mark the 25th anniversary of the Queen frontman's death, which explores two of the most important years in his life, from the band's iconic performance at the Live Aid concert in 1985 to his diagnosis with Aids in 1987. The programme examines his struggle to keep his private life out of the tabloids and to continue recording music in the face of his failing health. **11.05 20 Moments That Rocked Pop.** Countdown of significant performers, songs or occasions that impacted the genre, including 1985's global Live Aid event, which redefined how society donated to charity. **12.35 That's So 1985.** (R) **1.30 SuperCasino. 3.10 Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild.** (R) **4.00 Tatoo Disasters UK.** (R) **4.50 House Doctor.** (R) **5.40 Angels of Jarm.** (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car.**

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Yehudi Menuhin at the BBC **8.00** Young, Gifted and Classical: The Making of a Maestro **9.00** Henry VIII's Enforcer: The Rise and Fall of Thomas Cromwell **10.00** Storyville: Executed by ISIS – The Folly Story **11.25** Nature's Wonderlands: Islands of Evolution **12.25** Impact! A Horizon Guide to Plane Crashes **1.25** Beautiful Equations **2.25** Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom **ITV2**
12.45 I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **1.45** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Step Up 3 (2010) **4.00** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **5.35** I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **6.40** Film: The Mummy (1999) **7.40** FYI Daily **7.45** Film: The Mummy (1999) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.00** I'm a Celebrity: Extra Camp **11.00** Family Guy **12.25** American Dad! **1.25** The Cleveland Show **2.15** The Hot Desk: Vicky Pattison **ITV3**
12.25 A Touch of Frost **2.25** Film: Columbo: Playback (1975) **4.00** Film: Forever Young (1992) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** Film: Forever Young (1992) **6.05** Doc Martin **8.00** Lewis **10.00** A Mother's Son **12.05** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.00** May the Best House Win **3.45** Murder, She Wrote **4.35** Wycliffe **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
1.00 Pawn Stars **3.55** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **4.35** FYI Daily **5.00** Film: Every Which Way But Loose (1978) **6.10** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **7.10** FYI Daily **7.15** Film: The Scorpion King (2002) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: The Keeper (2009) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** Film: The Keeper (2009) **11.00** Film: Ransom (1996) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Ransom (1996) **1.20** Fishing Impossible **2.25** The Car Chasers **E4**
1.00 Film: The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement (2004) **3.15** Rude! (ish) Tube Shorts **3.30** The Goldbergs **4.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Unknown (2011) **11.20** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.25** The Inbetweeners **1.35** Crazyhead **2.40** New Girl **3.25** Hollyoaks **Film4**
11.00 The Golditz Story (1954) **1.00** Dear John (2010) **3.1** Air Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.50** The Hour of the Baskervilles (1959) **6.35** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** 47 Ronin (2013) **11.15** Machete Kills (2013) **1.25** Micmacs (2009) **3.35** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
From Hell, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A detective tries to use his opium-triggered visions to put an end to Jack the Ripper's reign of terror over 19th-century London. But in the course of his investigation, he uncovers a sinister conspiracy that reaches the highest levels of Victorian society. Mystery thriller, based on Alan Moore's comic book series, starring Johnny Depp, Heather Graham, Ian Holm and Robbie Coltrane. (2001)

TUESDAY
Little Voice, BBC1, 11.50pm
A painfully shy woman has a talent for impersonating famous performers including Shirley Bassey, Marilyn Monroe and Judy Garland. She is spotted by a greedy promoter who instinctively realises her considerable money-spinning potential, but the shrinking violet proves reluctant to step into the limelight. Comedy drama, with Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine, Brenda Blethyn, Ewan McGregor and Jim Broadbent. (1998)



WEDNESDAY
The Box, BBC1, 11.45pm
A couple are given a mysterious wooden box with a button on it and told that if they press it, they will be given a million dollars but that someone somewhere in the world will die. After pressing the button, they fear they may be the next victim when the box is passed on, and try to find out how and why this is happening. Sci-fi thriller, with Cameron Diaz. (2009)

THURSDAY
The Christmas Note, Channel 5, 3.15pm
After moving back home just before Christmas, a disillusioned woman finds a new purpose when she helps her neighbour look for a missing sibling. Drama based on the novel by Donna VanLiere, starring Jamie-Lynn Sigler and Greg Vaughan. (2015)

FRIDAY
Carry On at Your Convenience, ITV, 11.15pm
Production at toilet manufacturers WC Boggs is brought to a halt when an over-eager trade union representative calls a strike. However, worker unrest is quickly quelled by a jolly trip to the seaside. Comedy, starring Sid James. (1971)

Danny's family tree is far from a Dyer affair

An 'extraordinary range of incredible stories' The words of executive producer Colette Flight ahead of this 13th series of the genealogy documentary in which 10 more celebrities embark journeys of discovery deep into their families' past.

"Who Do You Think You Are? is back with another brilliant line-up of much-loved stars, uncovering hidden history by bringing their ancestors to life," she adds.

"As we follow our celebrities on their personal journey into their family trees, an extraordinary range of incredible stories are revealed, sometimes tragic, sometimes funny, but always compelling."

This new run will span almost 1000 years of history and there will heartbreak and laughter, intrigue and surprise, as each famous face discovers a cast of remarkable ancestors, including freedom fighters and criminals, war heroes and bigamists.

The series will see a fair few extraordinary firsts as it travels to new territories, exploring how our

celebrities' ancestors were caught up in slavery-era Martinique, the birth of Bangladesh, the invention of the weekend, the first pineapples in Britain and the perils of life in working-class Liverpool.

Britain's Got Talent judge Amanda Holden's investigation brings to light an extraordinary Napoleonic-era cross-channel romance and the forgotten tragedy of Britain's worst ever maritime disaster.

Meanwhile, former Girls Aloud member and X Factor judge Cheryl's journey is one of equal contrasts, as she discovers the story of her long and forgotten great grandfather – a quintessential Tommy in the First World War who survived one of the conflict's key battles.

Also investigating their heritage will be film and stage star Sir Ian McKellen, news presenter Sophie Raworth, The Royle Family actor Ricky Tomlinson, Star Wars and Harry Potter actor Warwick Davis, Countrywise presenter Liz Bonnin, The Inbetweeners actor and comedian Greg Davies and Casualty actress Sunetra Sarker.

But it all begins tonight with EastEnders actor Danny Dyer.

Danny, who now lives in Deben, Epping Forest, was raised in Canning Town and began his acting career as a 16-year-old after being spotted at school and landing a role in Prime Suspect 3.

The actor then found fame in films including Football Factory and Human Traffic before presenting The Real Football Factories and Danny Dyer's Deadliest Men.

In 2013, he signed up for a long-term role as Mick Carter in EastEnders and went on to win the Serial Drama Performance award at the National Television Awards in 2015 and 2016.

When he first agreed to doing Who Do You Think You Are?, the 39-year-old said he hoped his family history will 'freak a few people out'.

However, he perhaps gets more than he bargained for on his journey.

As he traces his family from poverty and crime in the East End back through to the 11th century, Danny also discovers he has an incredible connection to nobility.



Danny Dyer features, Who Do You Think You Are?, Thursday, BBC1, 8pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Back in Time for Brixton BBC2, 9pm

Part one of two. The Irwins experience 50 years of black British history, discovering how post-war Caribbean immigration transformed the way of life in the UK. The first edition sees them learn what life was like for arrivals coming to Britain in the 1950s and '60s, with presenter Giles Coren and social historian Emma Dabiri introducing them to their new homes and the family sampling the food, work and entertainment of first-generation West Indian immigrants in Brixton.

TUESDAY
The Martin Lewis Money Show ITV, 8pm

The financial journalist kicks off a new series with an hour-long special set in front of an audience at a London dockside warehouse. With the help of co-presenters Saira Khan and Ranvir Singh, he will attempt to save consumers money on their energy bills. The trio look at where to find the best deals, and how to get the right tariff so that you pay for what you actually use. Plus they share tips on making changes around your home that can save you hundreds of pounds and choosing the right energy-efficient appliances. Throughout the show,

viewers are invited to get in touch via social media and email to talk about their own switching stories. As well as their in-depth guide to utility bills, the team will also be making their predictions for the upcoming Black Friday discounts.

WEDNESDAY
This Time Next Year ITV, 8pm

Davina McCall meets Karen Jackson, a 40-year-old nurse from Brighton who aims to lose half her body weight so she can finally have IVF treatment. Elsewhere, Linda Ralph, 68, from East Sussex, is hoping to be reunited with her old friend Maria who she's not seen for 50 years after they met in teacher training college. Also on the show is 21-year-old Rhys Jones. After contracting hemiplegic encephalitis as a toddler, Rhys was told he may never walk, but as defied all expectations and was hoping to qualify for Team GB at the Rio Paralympics and win a medal. There is also a district nurse who is hoping she can lose weight and fit back into her biking leathers, and an army medic and mum of three who is undergoing a leg amputation.



The Martin Lewis Money Show, Tuesday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY
Close to the Enemy BBC2, 9pm

The search for Lotte sees everyone put aside their differences, while Callum is forced to make a difficult choice between his brother and the orders from his superiors. Believing he is free to both protect and prosecute the Germans as he sees fit, he eventually brings Kathy some information about scientists who have been taken to safe houses – and the two of them work together to prevent someone of importance from leaving the country.

Meanwhile, enchanting American Rachel is encouraged by her husband to get closer to Callum. Stephen Poliakoff drama, starring Jim Sturgess, Phoebe Fox and Charlotte Riley.

FRIDAY
Unreported World Channel 4, 7.30pm

Millions of schoolgirls

across Africa are being manipulated, threatened and sexually abused by those who are supposed to be looking after them – their teachers. Kiki King visits Mozambique to investigate the disturbing phenomenon known as 'sex for grades', where teachers force their female pupils to have sex with them in return for better grades – or even their deserved grades. As King discovers, the Mozambican Ministry of Education has found that 70 per cent of schoolgirls are either facing this kind of harassment or witnessing it. Last in the series.

Alan Carr's Happy Hour Channel 4, 8pm

Friday nights with Alan Carr used to mean his talk show Chatty Man, where the celebrities could call in for a post-watershed drink and a natter. But now he's moving to the earlier time of 8pm for his brand new series, which effectively gives him the chance to organise his own club night. Although there will still be celebrity interviews, there will also be stand-up comedy, live music and variety acts, all filmed in front of a specially invited studio. Channel 4 is promising us that it's the best Friday night out you can have without leaving the house – although despite the title, it seems that earlier timeslot means that the booze probably won't be flowing quite as freely as it did on Chatty Man.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

15 22 9 7 21 7 10 22 6 15 17
13 10 22 7 12 13 14 15
12 8 23 13 2 8 18 13
16 18 9 13 2 9 12
25 R A 13 6 5 13 18 9 7 16 16
26 16 25 13 14
16 14 12 18 20 15 18 25 11 16
15 15 18 13 16 18 14
25 4 18 15 9 21 20 15
19 7 7 20 13 24 15 21
15 16 1 22 25 12 18 13 9 25 10
20 23 16 10 11

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
X B O U C T Y K F S G E Z
P I L D Q M H V J N W A R

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Support for any blooming thing! (6-5)
- 9 & 19Dn. The power to observe is certainly embodied in the rowing crew (6)
- 10. Feathers correctly described in plain words (9)
- 11. A piece of material is left (5)
- 13. Wouldn't accept rubbish near the top of the dump (7)
- 14. Offensive encroachment in the motorway (6)
- 16. Broken tea-set - that's what's left! (6)
- 18. What drug addicts and snooker players do! (2,2,3)
- 19. Bundle of papers sorted out by Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force (5)
- 20. On the subject of observing (9)
- 21. Sailor seen lying on the road (3)
- 22. No capital can be made out of short note (5,6)

Down

- 2. Shelter for fish on return (3)
- 3. Firmly fix the western boundary (5)
- 4. Part of the sideboard is put up as prize (6)
- 5. Customs levies for restaurant charges (7)
- 6. Supporter is not on time to pass a bill (9)
- 7. Their efforts prove to be appealing, we hear! (4-7)
- 8. Scrutinises the class and decides on the winner (7,4)
- 12. Plan to put stone under rocky beds (9)
- 15. When father returns with unusual pearl, it's put on (7)
- 17. A fabric - just as you choose (2,4)
- 19. See 9 Across
- 21. An obligation to draw the match (3)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
9 10
11 12 13
14 15 16
17 18 19
20 21
22

Quick Clues:

Across

- 1. Charitable gift (11)
- 9. Untruth (3)
- 10. Take to pieces (9)
- 11. Dissertation (5)
- 13. Strain (7)
- 14. Musician (6)
- 16. Sea god (6)
- 18. Aerodrome (3,4)
- 19. Danger (5)
- 20. Instantaneous (9)
- 21. Idiot (3)
- 22. Counterchange (11)

Down

- 2. Before (3)
- 3. Senior (5)
- 4. Property (6)
- 5. Coach (7)
- 6. Clothier (9)
- 7. Mania for stealing (11)
- 8. Nonsensical (11)
- 12. List of entertainments (9)
- 15. Calumny (7)
- 17. Deprive of wind (6)
- 19. Smarten (5)
- 21. Deed (3)

Sudoku

8 2 5 6
4 1 4 5 8
2 1 7
3 6 4 7 8 5
5 8 2
1 6 9 8 5
2 6 3 1

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

9 2 4 1 7 3 5 8 6
6 3 1 6 9 5 2 4 7
5 7 6 2 4 8 3 1 9
7 9 3 4 8 1 6 5 2
2 1 5 7 6 9 8 3 4
6 4 8 3 5 2 9 7 1
3 8 2 9 1 4 7 6 5
1 5 7 8 2 6 4 9 3
4 6 9 5 3 7 1 2 8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pupa; 3 Mortised; 9 Serious; 10 Exact; 11 Disagreement; 13 Tablet; 15 Amoral; 17 United States; 20 Alien; 21 Earache; 22 Disperse; 23 Isis. Down: 1 Postdate; 2 Paris; 4 Ousted; 5 Thermometers; 6 Stainer; 7 Duty; 8 Long sentence; 12 Plasters; 14 Bandits; 16 Adders; 18 Tacks; 19 Yard. QUICK - Across: 1 Copy; 3 Assessed; 9 Provoked; 10 Tense; 11 Individually; 13 Untold; 15 Hasten; 17 Conservative; 20 Amble; 21 Secrete; 22 Greeting; 23 Plot. Down: 1 Captious; 2 Proud; 4 Steady; 5 Extravagance; 6 Singlet; 7 Deep; 8 Convalescent; 12 Indecent; 14 Trouble; 16 Prison; 18 Ideal; 19 Gang.

Quiz

- 1. Who wrote Catch-22 in 1961?
- 2. In which city did Mikhail Baryshnikov defect?
- 3. Who was Monty Python's animator?
- 4. In which TV series did Elizabeth Montgomery star?
- 5. What is the female equivalent of the Oedipus complex called?
- 6. Of which county is Lifford the county town?
- 7. Which film star was born Joseph Levitch?
- 8. To what did Nyasaland change its name in 1964?
- 9. Who composed In a Summer Garden in 1908?
- 10. Which philanthropic society was founded by US lawyer Paul Harris in 1905?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Mother Teresa; 2 Tofu; 3 Lake Garda; 4 Brandy; 5 Sahara; 6 Republican Party; 7 Pears; 8 Tomato; 9 James Clark Ross; 10 Manchester.

Niner: LIGATURES

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 12354 gives a medicine,
- 68971 gives a second medicine,
- 87964396 gives a third medicine.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Thinking space

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Quimper with the impressive cathedral



The beautiful village of Locronan



Teeing off for a morning's golf



The swimming pool is ideal for play or relaxing



The perfect backdrop for wedding pictures

Just the two of us – and making even more memories to treasure

IT'S not the first time we've been to France and it most certainly won't be the last.

Years of travelling there every year when our children were growing up always brings back happy memories.

Now they are growing up with families of their own it was our turn to try out this wonderful country, just the two of us. And despite the troubles it has had to endure recently, holidaymakers should not be put off this lovely country.

We sampled the delights of driving there – no jams like our congested M6 and M5 but wide roads and no traffic queues – but much more importantly, lovely beaches and superb campsites, none more so than the Castels site we stayed at Quimper, Domaine de l'Orangerie de Lanniron.

The site is on a stately scale and I knew as we drove down the tree-lined boulevard to the reception this was going to be good. After a quick check-in from the friendly girls, they pointed the way to our lovely lodge, which was well equipped with verandah and loungers included. The site has everything you could wish for and being a golfer I was thrilled to see the nine-hole course.

Sue Attwater enjoys a visit to France

I get ribbed at work for mentioning the four letter word G O L F but I just have to say this was a lovely course in superb condition. I'd better leave it there! Of course for the non-golfer there are so many other facilities, a swimming pool with slides and flumes, tennis, petanque, children's facilities and entertainment and a restaurant and bar overlooking the pool where we enjoyed live music.

Class

Castels sites seem to have that extra touch of class. This historic site with its beautiful grounds and orangerie which is regularly used for wedding is enchanting. Just to walk round the gardens is a treat. We did that on our first afternoon there and gatecrashed a wedding with the marquee down by the river – a lovely setting.

The weather was a little mixed at first but soon brightened up. The mornings there are often cooler so are ideal for sightseeing, relaxing by the pool or on the golf course later in the day.

The site is near so many lovely places to visit. Quimper itself – it is possible to walk in from the

site in about 30 minutes – with its amazing cathedral; Concarneau and Beg Meil, a lovely little beach resort; and lots of towns with great markets, like Benodet and Port L'Abbe, where there are craft products on sale, some quite expensive, but there are bargains to be had. Also close by is Locronan, one of the most beautiful villages in France.

The locals are very proud of their area. When we arrived at the we were greeted in Brittany by a young man who handed out a welcome pack including area info and some local produce. A lovely gesture that made us feel right at home.

Our journey across from Plymouth to Roscoff had already set us up for a relaxing time. The overnight ferry was superb and the cabin had its own TV and en suite so you could arrive refreshed. I have never travelled overnight before and would definitely recommend it.

The service with Brittany Ferries was very efficient, on and off the boat and with no fuss, except when my husband forgot to take the alarm off our motor and had to return to the car deck.

It was a short drive from the ferry port to the site – about one a half hours – and a lovely surprise when we got there. So thanks, France, for more happy memories of a different kind.

FACTFILE

Created in 1959 Les Castels is a collection of 38 four and five star camping sites across France and is the leading provider of glamping sites. Visit <http://www.camping-castels.co.uk>

The ferries were booked through www.Aferry.co.uk which features real-time comparison technology for ferries. This handy site covers more than 1,800 routes around the world from over 140 ferry companies.

Brittany Ferries operates routes from Portsmouth, Poole and Plymouth to the French ports of Le Havre, Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo and Roscoff. Fares start from £79pp each way, based on a car and two passengers. Go to brittanyferries.com or on 0330 159 7000.

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Flower Show and Harrogate



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and Oxford



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PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

33
Dudley Chronicle Thursday, November 17, 2016

Much-improved detached in a wonderful location

Rickstones in Fox Lane, Lower Chaddesley, Kidderminster, is a handsome detached home in a wonderful rural location that has been much improved.

It is for sale through Halls at £679,950. It has a living room and dining room, two bathrooms, a kitchen/diner, utility and cloakroom, four double bedrooms and two bathrooms, a double garage and generous gardens with attractive rural views.

Chaddesley Corbett is a most sought-after village. It has a local church, village hall, popular pubs, a well thought of primary school, as well as a doctor's surgery and the highly regarded independent Winterfold House School is just over one mile away. It is also ideally placed for commuting.

Having been extensively updated, improved and extended, this beautiful family home is set within well proportioned and substantial gardens with off road parking, a double garage and plenty of privacy and countryside views. In more detail, it is approached via a five bar timber gate onto a gravelled hard standing providing off road parking leading to the covered flagstone entrance porch and a beautifully spacious main reception hall.

This has an original quarry tiled floor and a straight flight staircase. The generous living room has a feature exposed brick recess fireplace with an original quarry tiled hearth. The separate dining room has solid wooden flooring and an exposed brick fireplace, attractive ceiling timbers and a bay window. The dining room is perfectly situated via an obscure multi paned glass door into the kitchen. Being extended, the kitchen/diner is fitted to a high standard.

Upstairs is a spacious gallery landing with long distance views. The master bedroom has a contemporary en-suite shower room. There are three further bedrooms, each with different rural outlooks and being served by a beautiful family bathroom.

The generous lawned gardens are beautifully kept and shaped with some shrub and herbaceous borders and a wild flower garden to the side with a shed. The double garage has an electrically operated roll top door.

LOWER CHADDESLEY £679,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Halls

TEL: 01562 820880

EMAIL: kidderminster@halls.gb.com



KEY FEATURES

2 reception rooms

4 double bedrooms

2 bathroom/shower rooms

Much improved

Handsome detached



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KINGSWINFORM, Stream Road

A SUBSTANTIAL PERIOD DETACHED FAMILY HOME providing EXCEPTIONALLY LARGE THREE-STOREY accommodation, RECENTLY EXPENSIVELY RE APPOINTED and IMPROVED THROUGHOUT with SIX DOUBLE BEDROOMS, FOUR/FIVE EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOMS, LARGE DRIVEWAY with automatic gates leading to GENEROUS GARAGE and a HUGE, around 200ft long BEAUTIFULLY LAID OUT, REAR GARDEN EPC D.

New price

£515,000



PENSNETT, Fernhurst Drive

An IMMACULATE & BEAUTIFULLY PRESENTED DETACHED FAMILY HOME offering a SPACIOUS and EXPENSIVELY appointed throughout including Large Refitted Family Dining Kitchen with appliances and FOUR GOOD BEDROOMS with ENSUITE. With DRIVEWAY, GARAGE and a good sized rear garden. EPC D

£219,950



WOODSETTON, Pool Street

Conscientiously maintained, gas centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed & cavity wall insulated detached with LARGE GARAGE (opposite). Presented in exemplary order, accommodation includes; hallway, inner hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen with integrated oven, hob and extractor. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, Extensive loft. Block paved drive, magnificent rear garden. EPC: D. SEDGLEY

New price

WAS £180,000, NOW £170,000



HIMLEY, Churns Hill Lane

PART EXCHANGE CONSIDERED - A SUPERB, VERY SPACIOUS FIRST FLOOR APARTMENT for 55 yr plus owners, with open country views and a generous, beautifully appointed TWO BEDROOM layout with an EN-SUITE, plus ALLOCATED CAR PARKING and beautifully landscaped communal gardens. EPC B

New price

£164,950



SEDGLEY, Dudley Road

NO UPWARD CHAIN. Conveniently situated on the Dudley Road in Sedgley this TRADITIONAL SEMI-DETACHED property offers lots of potential and briefly comprises of; porch, entrance hallway, sitting room, living room, conservatory, guest W/C, kitchen, utility, garage, THREE BEDROOMS, bathroom, enclosed rear garden, drive to front. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £164,950



DUDLEY, Himley Road

ENLARGED, modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached comprising; entrance porch, reception hall, dining room with bay, 17' lounge, breakfast kitchen; three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden, panoramic views, and CAR PORT together with ADDITIONAL PARKING at rear. EPC: D.SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £156,975



LOWER GORNAL, Park Road

A superbly presented, good-sized family home situated in the highly sought after Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Benefiting from double glazing and central heating and double glazing this fantastic property also boasts, entrance hall, well-appointed lounge, kitchen-diner, ground floor shower room, sitting room/ utility, THREE BEDROOMS, shower room, enclosed rear-garden, drive to front offering ample parking. EPC: TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £137,950



GORNAL WOOD, Bank Road

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS! A modernised, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed traditional style end terrace offering further potential within walking distance of the village and all associated amenities and briefly comprises; entrance hallway (useful cellar). two living rooms, spacious 16'7" kitchen (with double French doors out to the garden). Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £134,950



WOODSETTON, Rosalind Avenue

This traditional semi-detached property is located in the much sought after area of Woodsetton and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. With potential for improvement, this family home comprises of porch, entrance hallway, living room, dining room, kitchen, guest W/C, THREE BEDROOMS, double glazing, enclosed rear garden, garage and parking. EPC TBA SEDGLEY

Offers in excess of £119,950

New



WORDSLEY, Troon Place

Very pleasantly situated upon highly sought after Forest Lawns, this ATTRACTIVELY IMPROVED SEMI-DETACHED HOME offers a spacious, well appointed THREE BEDROOM layout, plus a large driveway and a large attractively landscaped garden. EPC: C

No upward chain

£179,950



DUDLEY, Vanborough Walk, London Heights

A SUPERBLY PRESENTED and EXTENDED family home located on the popular London Heights development in Dudley. Benefiting from double glazing and gas central heating this property also boasts, entrance porch, through lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, THREE BEDROOMS, attractive bathroom, with enclosed rear garden and drive to front. Viewing is highly recommended. EPC: D SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £179,950



LOWER GORNAL, Mount Close

Good sized & conscientiously maintained semi-detached is enviously situated on Mount Close in the sought after Lower Gornal area of Dudley. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing this family home also boasts; entrance hall, living room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom with separate W/C, landscaped rear garden and driveway to front. EPC:C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £165,000



DUDLEY, Wrens Nest Road

EXCEPTIONALLY SPACIOUS WITH FOUR GENEROUS BEDROOMS! - Stylish, modern, gas centrally heated, double glazed, intermediate 'family home' comprising; hall, cloakroom, store, kitchen, living/dining room. To the first floor; three bedrooms, bathroom, and to the second floor a superb principal bedroom suite with built in mirrored wardrobes, walk in store/wardrobe & shower room en suite. Garden, parking. EPC: C SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £149,950



SEDGLEY, Ettymore Road

Immediate walking distance of the Bull Ring; Gas centrally heated, double glazed two double bedroom homes nearing completion to first quality specification to include hallway, cloakroom, kitchen (granite work surfaces & various integrated appliances), living/dining room, two bedrooms (one with wardrobe), bathroom, garden, parking to foregarden. Prices from £142,500 to £147,500. SAP:TBA SEDGLEY



SEDGLEY, Whitesmith Close

WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OF BULLRING! Gas centrally heated & double glazed first floor apartment forming part of development overseen by the Accord Housing Association for residents aged 55 plus with visiting warden facility comprising; front door approach (with stair lift) to the first floor landing, lounge, kitchen, inner hallway, two bedrooms, shower room. Communal grounds, allocated parking. EPC:C SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £138,950



DUDLEY, Walters Row

Gas centrally heated, uPVC double glazed, semi detached with vacant possession overlooking park in a convenient/established district. Accommodation provides; kitchen, living/dining room. Two double bedrooms, bathroom. EPC: C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £100,000



COSELEY, Johnson Street, Hurst Hill

An attractively presented traditional terraced property situated in the popular Hurst Hill, Coaseley area. Benefiting from central heating and double glazing this ideal first time buyers home also has living room, kitchen-diner, THREE BEDROOMS, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY.

Offers in the region of £95,000



DUDLEY, Land adj to 78 Old Park Road

Planning consent secured to construct a three storey 3 bedroom detached dwelling of approximately 144 square metres (excluding garage) in well established residential neighbourhood. Planning application P16/1061. Viewing arrangements and further details with agents Sedgley Office.

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RENT: £650



TO LET

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- DRIVEWAY
- 4 BEDROOMS
- LARGE GARDEN

RENT: £750



TO LET

5 OAK CLOSE

- CAR PARK
- 1 BEDROOM
- OPEN PLAN KITCHEN

RENT: £400



LET BY

28 HAZELBEECH ROAD

- 3 BEDROOMS
- LARGE GARDEN
- OFF STREET PARKING

RENT: £650



LET BY

161 OAK ROAD

- 3 BEDROOMS
- LARGE GARDEN
- SPACIOUS DRIVEWAY

RENT: £600



LET BY

110 WOOD LANE

- 3 BEDROOMS
- CENTRAL HEATING
- PRIVATE DRIVEWAY

RENT: £500



LET BY

14 MONKGATE DRIVE

- 3 BEDROOMS
- TOWN HOUSE
- ALLOCATED PARKING

RENT: £600

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A beautifully presented and improved mews-style home

STOURBRIDGE
£144,950 <<<

Beautifully presented and expensively improved, including a refitted kitchen, this two-bedroomed mews-style home in Richardson Drive, Wollaston Park, Stourbridge, is for sale through Taylors at £144,950.

Located just off Richardson Drive itself in a modern block paved courtyard, the home is set back behind its own small frontage and has a rear garden. There is an allocated parking space beyond an archway at the top of the courtyard. An ideal first time buy, it has a reception hall with attractive oak-style laminate flooring and stairs off. The sitting room has doors opening to the rear garden. The refitted kitchen has a four burner gas hob, electric fan assisted oven with grill and canopy hood and an integrated slimline dishwasher. Upstairs are two bedrooms and a reappointed bathroom.

Contact Taylors on 01384 395555.



Four bedroomed house available to rent

WEST BROMWICH
£750 PCM

This four-bedroomed detached house in Europa Avenue, West Bromwich is available to rent through Apex Estate Agents at £750 per calendar month.

With central heating and double glazing, it has a reception room, a spacious extended kitchen, a fitted upstairs bathroom and a private drive.

It is available to rent unfurnished.

In more detail the reception room features a fireplace. The good sized kitchen has wood effect unit doors, contrasting working surfaces and terracotta floor tiles and splash-back tiling and a window overlooking the rear.

The bathroom has a modern suite include a fitted modern vanity unit with the sink inset.

Contact Apex Estate Agents on 0121 532 2700.



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Guide: £135,000 plus



394 Rocky Lane, Great Barr
3 Bedroom Semi Detached House
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AUCTION - 29TH NOVEMBER 2016



82 COMPTON ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

Close to City Centre - spacious Mid Terraced, Lounge, Dining Room, 18ft. Kitchen, Bathroom, Cellar, Two Double Bedrooms, 16ft. Attic Bedroom, Yard & Garden. Epc: E.39.
Guide £53,000 / £58,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th NOVEMBER @ 11.00 a.m.
PLEASE TAKE TORCH.



68 THE LINDENS, NEWBRIDGE, WOLVERHAMPTON

Well located Ground Floor Flat, private Hall, 14ft. Lounge, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with white fittings and shower over bath, Garage, pleasant outlook to rear.
Epc: E.54

Guide £48,000 / £53,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th NOVEMBER @ 11.45 a.m.



25 CLAREMONT ROAD, SEDGLEY (Development potential STTP)

Detached property - part non-standard construction - Foregarden, Hallway, WC., Room 1, brick built rear section, Room 2 with side entrance, long Rear Garden - approx. 90ft.
Epc: TBA

Guide £33,000 / £38,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th NOVEMBER @ 10.30 a.m.



339 DUDLEY ROAD, WOLVERHAMPTON

On 'bus route, close to shops, 26ft. Lounge, Rear Hall, Dining Room, long fitted Kitchen, G.F. Shower Room, Three Double Bedrooms, Shower Room No. 2, 17ft. Attic Room, Gas CH., Rear Garden. Epc: TBA

Guide £133,000 / £138,000

VIEWING:
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 18th & 19th NOVEMBER @ 11.30 a.m.

VIEWING OF ALL LOTS AT OWN RISK

PLEASE NOTE: Viewings are at the times specified so, should you arrive late, you may find your viewing time is limited or that we have moved on in order to maintain the time schedule.
Please Register for Catalogue

Skoda's City slicker does the business

By James Parker

Get behind the wheel of Škoda Citigo and you've a solid, well appointed cabin that promises a solid, well appointed driving experience.

Already, you sense, there's a depth of design here missing from this car's French, Korean and Japanese rivals. Most of these feature three cylinder 1.0-litre engines that are busily revvy at best and downright noisy at worst. A configuration shared here, but delivered with a bit more finesse. Fire the engine and a more refined thrum filters out from beneath the bonnet ahead. Not refined enough, it must be said, to quite let you forget the cylindrical imbalance under the bonnet. But then the characteristic offbeat rasp isn't unpleasant and rather suits this design's rather offbeat charisma.

You'll certainly be hearing plenty of it if rapid progress is needed, for without a turbocharger to boost torque, this one needs to be revved quite a bit, peak power not arriving until 6,000rpm, only 600rpm shy of the red line. And if you're wondering quite how much power we're talking about, the answer is not a great deal in the mainstream 1.0-litre variants we're focusing on here, cars offering a choice of either 60 or 75PS outputs, with an identical 95Nm of torque either way. Most will be content with the base version, capable as it is of sixty in 14.4s on the way to 99mph, quite enough to keep up with the traffic. The performance gains offered by the 75PS variant seem relatively slight (0-60mph in 13.2s on the way to 107mph) but the unit is a little more refined.

The styling looks quite smart but forget the aesthetics: two statistics sum up the real thinking behind this design. A length of around 3.5-metres yet a wheelbase that takes up nearly 2.5-metres of that. Which is



Styling looks quite smart on the Citigo



There is enough space in the rear for two adults

why, though a Citigo is no longer than a Fiat 500, it offers far more room inside, space in fact for the four fully-sized adults who could never comfortably fit in the apparently space-efficient Italian car. Both three and five-door models offer the same amount of rear passenger space of a standard impressive in this segment and helped for taller folk by the way it's possible to easily tuck your feet beneath the seat ahead. Equipment-wise, the entry-level 'S' variant doesn't come with very much at all other than the real basics:

you even have to pay extra for a spare wheel. You do though, get an MP3-compatible CD stereo with an AUX-in socket, body-coloured bumpers, daytime running lights and a 12V powerpoint.

Thanks in part to a low kerb weight of only around 850kg, even the least efficient entry-level 60PS models will return a combined fuel economy figure of 62.8mpg, with emissions pegged at 108g/km. Figures you can improve to 64.2mpg and 103g/km by opting for the efficient ASG automatic gearbox, at just 30kgs

in weight, one of the lightest auto gearboxes ever made. Those looking for better economy still in their 1.0-litre 60PS Citigo will be drawn inexorably to the 'GreenTech' model which features low rolling resistance tyres, a battery regeneration system and a stop start system that cuts the engine when you don't need it in traffic or at the lights. As a result, it can return an impressive 68.9mpg on the combined cycle and emit just 96g/km of carbon dioxide.

Go for the slightly pokier 75PS variant and there's hardly any penalty at the pumps.

Unlike SEAT and Volkswagen, Škoda includes its efficiency package (with start/stop etc as standard with this engine, so the returns achieved – 67.3mpg on the combined cycle and 98g/km £8,275– are substantially better than the 75PS SEAT Mii or Volkswagen up! models you'd get for the same or more money. Whether you opt for your Citigo with 60 or 75PS, the benefits of the efficiency package are important given that they take this car below the 100g/km barrier, making it completely free from congestion charges.

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The Citigo has a solid, well-appointed cabin that promises a well-appointed driving experience



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The new S-Cross is more distinctly styled, with a bolder new grille

Inside it has been upgraded with high specification

Beefed up and so much tastier

By John Griffiths

The often overlooked Suzuki S-Cross was among the early players in the now burgeoning compact crossover sector.

In spite of competitive pricing and a high degree of competence, what it perhaps lacked was the chunky looks demanded by those who have sent SUV sales soaring by 27 per cent this year. The car was too car-like for that.

But that's all changed, with a heavily revamped model which offers more room, a range of new hi-tech and efficient engines and importantly perhaps – if first impressions do count – the stronger, bolder looks of a full-blown SUV.

The S-Cross now comes with two small and economical (but still punchy) turbocharged petrol engines: a 1.0 litre version from the new Baleno and the 1.4 from the acclaimed new Vitara S. The revamped 1.6 turbo diesel is more familiar, but now offers lower fuel consumption and CO2 emissions.

Unlike many of its rivals, all versions are available with Suzuki's proven ALLGRIP four wheel drive on demand system.

Prices range from £14,999 for a two-wheel drive with the 1.0 Boosterjet engine, rising to £24,349 flagship model with 1.6 turbo diesel and four wheel drive. A six-speed twin clutch auto is an option with both petrol engines.

The new S-Cross is much more distinctively styled, with a bolder new grille, clam shell bonnet, broader 'shoulders' and new LED lights. It also has greater ground clearance.

Inside, it has been upgraded with some softer, more expensive-looking materials and a lot of new technology, including the central information/control screen. The cabin has plenty of room for five adults. Leg and headroom in the back is particularly generous for this class, with a roomy 430 litre boot (875 litres with the rear seatbacks folded down). The seating position is high, one of the attractions of an SUV. It means easier access, and great visibility.

A major attraction is that you can have a smooth, comfortable car with 4x4 capability that is still economical to run and environmentally friendly. That's thanks to the combination of new engines and Suzuki's ALLGRIP 4x4 system, both geared to efficiency and fuel saving.

Impressed

I must admit that, although I was mightily impressed by the 1.0 Boosterjet engine in the Baleno I did wonder how such a small, three cylinder engine would cope with a heavier 4x4. The answer is perfectly, confirming my high opinion of it in the Baleno. The figures are some illustration: 0 to 62mph in 11 seconds, an official 56.4mpg average and a low 113g/km of CO2, but that's only part of the story.

The small, turbocharged petrol engine is becoming increasingly popular with manufacturers and drivers. It has the economy advantage of a small engine under light throttle, but put your foot down and you have the added oomph from the blower.

The Boosterjet produces 110bhp and 170Nm of torque. Compare that to a current, normally aspirated 1.0 litre engine from a major manufacturer – 60bhp and 95Nm.

The torque figure is, if anything, more important than bhp. It mean the Boosterjet, and consequently the S-Cross, is responsive and flexible from low revs and it drives particularly smoothly and quietly without the noise and need for constant gearchanges we experience in a more traditional engine.

The 1.4 Boosterjet, of course, has more of everything. 140PS, 220Nm, a 0 to 62mph sprint time of 10.2 seconds and yet still manages better than 50mpg economy and CO2 emissions of 127g/km. It is both more powerful and more economical than the old 1.6 petrol engine it replaces.

The 1.6 turbo diesel version of the S-Cross, with a special business-user specification, the SZ-T. With 120bhp and 320NM of torque can average almost 69mpg and the lowest CO2 rating of the range – 106g/km – making it one of the most tax-efficient SUVs around.

All models come with seven airbags and an electronic stability system, and have a five star EuroNCAP safety rating.

All models, get alloy wheels, air con, cruise control, stereo radio/CD player and Bluetooth connectivity, electric windows, electrically heated and adjustable door mirrors, hill hold control, automatic engine stop/start and multi-function information display.

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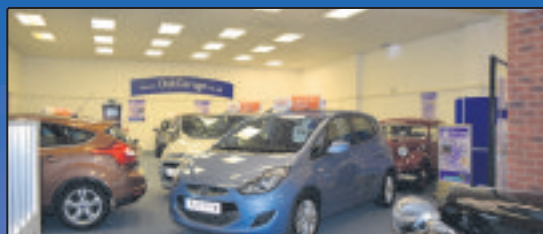
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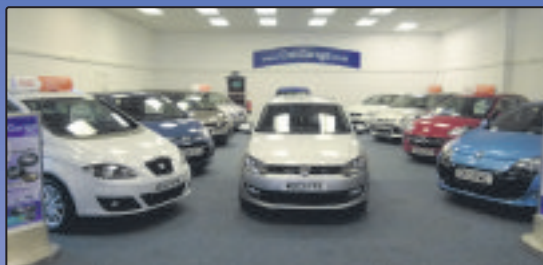
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"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

domestic cleaning

CLEAN for you (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
WE'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE
Work Guaranteed
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

ALAN JONES
THE ORIGINAL AERIAL SPECIALIST, THE BEST!
Est 1955 - 59 years at the top!
Recommended by thousands
Genuine, honest, 100% reliable
WE HAVE WATCHED THEM ALL COME AND GO
Call: 01902 885985
ANY PROBLEM SOLVED

CLEAR VISION AERIALS Free-view, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV, Aerials from £79. Dishes from £79. OAP DISCOUNT. Tel: 01902 752035.

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

appliance repairs

A SAME DAY REPAIR - Cookers, Amino Fridges Vacas and Microwaves. Call 07900 578897 / 07801 746853.

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years experience in the industry
All aspects of building work including:
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

carpet & upholstery cleaning

A CLASS CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING
OAP discount. Recession Prices.
Unbeatable Value. Rooms cleaned from £10
Call Paul 07870 341089

Classified Ads
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood
FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

domestic cleaning

CLEAN for you (midlands ltd)
Domestic Cleaning & Ironing Service.
Friendly, Reliable & Trustworthy.
Call Anita on: 07854 163 804.

domestic repairs & services

SAME DAY Low Cost Repairs. Washers, Dryers Electric Cookers. 12 mths guarantee. 07850 355552.

drain clearance

ALL DRAIN AND SEWER Blockages cleared fast. Call Fast Clean. 01902 736424.

driveways & patios

CRETE BY DESIGN
Concrete Imprinting
• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING
FREE QUOTES
01902 489633 (day)
or 01902 604187 (eve)

electrical services

A BARGAIN PRICED house re-wire, fuseboards etc. Grahams Electrical. 01902 842739, 07783 471949.

ALL HOME ELECTRICS NAPIT registered. Fully insured. For a free quote call 07553 320318.

fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards and fitted
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, Wbury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY
FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fitt. WY10 9CQ. Call 07816 863810.

ACE FENCING. A better quality panel. Supply/Fit. Free Quotes: 31 Bank St. WY10 9DU. 01902 723910

gardening services

For all your Patio's, Turfing, Decking, treework and Root grinding...

Prestwood FENCING & LANDSCAPING
Prestwood Cave Nurseries, Wolverhampton Rd, Prestwood DY7 5AN
Call us on: 01384 273586 or 07947 879403 or visit
www.prestwoodfencing.co.uk for more details

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

painters & decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

gas fitting

GAS SERVICES
• Boilers
• Cookers
• Fires
• Gas Checks
• Landlord Certificates
• Gas Leaks Traced
Fitted, Serviced and Repaired Same Day Service
Free Quotes
DISCOUNTS FOR OAPs
Call: 01902 366855 / 07761 973975

READERS ARE ADVISED To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

A BOILER BREAKDOWN, COOKER, FIRE, FITTED-SERVICED-REPAIRED
Landlord certs. All areas covered. J&E Heating. Call John: 01902 562664 / 07969 687832

guttering

PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
A*1 GUTTERING
cleaned, repaired, replaced, facias/soffits, UPVC washdowns, all roofing/pointing work. Free quotes. 8am-6pm
01902 722447

handyman services

YOUR LOCAL HANDYMAN
FREE QUOTES
All work guaranteed. Most trades covered. References available on request. No job too big or too small
CALL MIKE: 07947 621047
0121 5010479

Classified Ads
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I average around 1 to 2 phone calls a day from customers as a direct result of my Classified Advertising. I am very happy with my response levels."

Mr Causser.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

LOCK AND CARPENTRY plumbing, plastering, slabbing and roofing 01902 683100 or 07935 906384.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavement. Also removals undertaken. 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

YMCA REQUIRE FURNITURE Free Collection. Telephone 01384 231714 for details.

oven cleaning

AAA OVEN CLEANING. Ovens, Hobbs, Aga / Range / Micro / Extractors. 01902 689418 / 07910 921736

painters & decorators

CALL M & B DECORATORS
City & Guilds
No job too small
Free Quote
01902 494555

A PROFESSIONAL DECORATING service by RC Decorating. Free competitive quotes: 07773 025880.

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly. Professional Female Painters & Decorators. Attention to detail, competitive prices. For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle. Plastering & Ceiling Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love2-wallpaper.co.uk

C I PAINTING & DECORATING
Over 30 yrs experience. City & Guilds approved. Free Quotes. 07890 879 892 01902 650716.

INTERIOR PAINTER AND DECORATOR Friendly and reliable, clean and tidy. Call Deb 01384 829473 / 07502 396385

plans prepared

ADAM DESIGN, Building Plans. Drawn and submitted to council. Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037. Email: adamdesign@sky.com

BUILDING PLANS, Prepared/Submitted. K. J. Bradley 01902 373248 07792 165767. www.plans4u.co.uk

plastering

DOMESTIC PLASTERING
rendering & small building work undertaken. 40 years experience. For a free quote
Call Roy
07887 495726
07583 643932

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work Undertaken. All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

plumbers

G M PLUMBING SERVICES Complete Bathrooms, Kitchens, Taps Showers, Blockages 07976 012488

removals

KT REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

A MAN WITH A VAN Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide. Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07815 043724

A2B REMOVALS Cheap and reliable removal service. Insured. 07817 842980 or 01902 746228

CALL DEAN NOW. For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209 / 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL PETE - MAN WITH A VAN. Removals, clearances, large/small. 01902 741546, 07899 638582.

KINGS OF THE ROAD REMOVAL Single items/Full loads from £20. OAP discount. Andy 07512 395370, Keith 07545 616231

REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything. Professional service, 45 years' experience, DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

roofing

15% OFF SF ROOFING & GUTTERING
10 YEARS EXPERIENCE!
Flat, Main roofs, rubber or felt, repaired and replaced, all repointing. Guttering repaired and replaced. BEAT ALL QUOTES GUARANTEED
Call Sean 01902 829158 8am to 8pm

Arrow Roofing & Guttering
Pitched roofing & lead work. Flat roofing, rubber & felt. All repointing. Free quotes. 01902 820996

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

plumbing & heating

Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate. Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs £200 OFF/Trade in old boiler Installed in November. T&C apply

01902 845211

Keiron Jones Plumbing & Heating
Full heating systems £2200
Boiler Changes £1100
Longer warranty available upon request, fires and surrounds also available.
For Free Quotes Call:
01902 403823 07811 855231

Classified Ads
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CENTRA HEAT

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"We are really happy with our Classified advertising package and the business it brings us."

Martin - Centra Heat

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

SJH PLUMBING AND HEATING
Gas safe reg, all plumbing & central heating undertaken. Call for free quote: 07855 020552

rubbish removal

LET'S TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed. Load/Remove any Waste. We also do Whole House Clearance. 07969 626382

skip hire

AT M&M SKIPS
Fast, friendly service
All areas covered
All sizes
Same day service
Freephone
0800 619 0189
07904 915016

Classified Ads
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

GRINSELLS SKIP HIRE

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"Thanks to our Classified advertising in the Express & Star we are really busy!"

It definitely works for us!

Grinsells Skip Hire.

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL
01902 319 191
Brought to you by Express & Star

Boiler Servicing inc Free Landlords Certificate. Power Flushing, Boiler/ System Repairs £200 OFF/Trade in old boiler Installed in November. T&C apply

AN ABSOLUTE AFFORDABLE CASTLE SKIP HIRE
Mini, midi and large skips
Also available mini digger with driver
01384 237577
01902 405745
07719 671845

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save \$\$\$
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH!
No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 35 years, 01384 232359.

STONES SKIP HIRE
0121 557 1480 / 07886 721875
www.stoneskiphire.co.uk

tree services

S T TREE SERVICES All tree work carried out. Call: 01902 884705 / 07841 842824

upholstery

BILSTON UPHOLSTERY Your suite or chair re-upholstered or repaired. Free Estimates: 01902 404698.

UPHOLSTERY SERVICES 3pcs/ springs/caravans/pubs/club/antiqu es. 01902 689844 / 07817 842980.

4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses have the required Passport information.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

pets corner

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, inoculated and microchipped.
Call 01922 412212 or
www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk
f RGT Wolverhampton
t @RGTWolves

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

LUCYN Affectionate, 12 year old neutered cat looking for new home, suit retired persons or someone living alone. 0784 7360784.

TWO JACK russell cross Yorkie pups, 1 dog, 1 bitch, 9 weeks old, £150. 07402 663973.

YOUNG ZEBRA FINCHES available. 01384 273281 Wall Heath area.

vets
Express & Star
THIS SPACE COULD BE PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

Every day our customers get a great response from Classified Advertising.

So could you by calling our friendly experienced Sales Advisors on 01902 319191.

5 Business & Farming

business opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

business directory

accountants

ACCOUNTANCY SERVICES for Small Business. Competitive Rates. Call 01902 882600

commercial premises

UNITS AND OFFICE SPACE to let in Oldbury, West Bromwich and Walsall. Easy Terms. Ashmore Properties 0121 520 5318.

6 Property

accommodation to let

A 1 BED FLAT PARK VILLAGE 2 Bed flat Fallings Park. 1 bed Chapel Ash DSS ok 01902 686605

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

NOTICE TO READERS It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSITS, TETTENHALL AREA. Fully furnished. CH. No DSS 07976 263435 / 01902 700 028.

HOUSE, Lanesfield, 2-bed, CH, DG, large garden, £495 pcm. Deposit. 07671 921934, after 7pm.

SMART ROOMS in shared house. Netherton, from £85 pwk Single. £95 pwk DBL inc bills. No DSS. 07970 717139 or 07940 116130.

WILLENHALL, luxury room, furnished, working person, £50p/w. Telephone 07401 089298.

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

properties wanted

A LOCAL BUYER pays full market value and more for your property. Call Rick 07729 297901

WE PAY 100% of purchase price EVERY TIME!
Sell your HOUSE - SIMPLE
You agree the price, we buy the house.
● NO AGENTS FEES ● COMPLETION TO SUIT YOU
● FREE SOLICITORS ● ANY HOUSE, ANY CONDITION
0800 999 999 6
or 01384 226086 24/7 www.black-countryhomes.co.uk

CASH NOW wolverhampton properties
FOR YOUR HOUSE
● Legal Fees Paid ● Guaranteed Offer
● No Fees ● Repossessions Stopped
● Any Condition
0800 389 6788
01902 628047 Lines open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. subject to terms

Need to sell your home fast?
We can help you make a fresh start
With solutions to suit ... you can clear your debts and make a fresh start
Purchase Agreed Within 7 DAYS
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED.
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS
WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?
01384 930 979 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7
*Terms and Conditions apply

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...
We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.
Black Country Homes

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191 Brought to you by Express & Star

ClassifiedAds BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

CLASSIFIEDS HELPED ME...

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"
Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

FOR GREAT BUSINESS RESULTS CALL 01902 319 191 Brought to you by Express & Star

full time - general

7 Jobs

building & construction

GROUND WORKERS or small company required for local work. Call 01384 230222.

MULTI GLAZING SYSTEMS LTD
Required for Commercial Aluminium Door, Curtain Wall and Window Manufacturing Company based in Dudley: www.mgsuk.com.

MGS Multi Glazing Systems Ltd

SKILLED ESTIMATOR
Industry experience of quotation preparation for door and window projects, liaising with customers and the ability to read drawings is essential.
Knowledge of Logikal, V6 or similar Industry estimating software, CAD and Excel would be an advantage.

SKILLED DOOR & WINDOW FABRICATOR
Experience in aluminium door or window fabricating is essential, along with the ability to work from drawings/cutting sheets.
Excellent working conditions and rates of pay
Send CV to pdryan@mgsuk.com, or call 01384 293141 and request an application form.

HAYLEY 24-7

ARE RECRUITING
We currently have a position for a
TRAINED SKILLED INDUSTRIAL GEARBOX FITTER
to support our growing business
The role will be shop based with some site work and provide the individual with variety of projects for our portfolio of blue chip companies and our Hayley Group Members. The core skill is for refurbishment and repair of small, medium and large gearboxes, in addition to this you would be working on many bespoke projects on and off site. We offer excellent rates of pay and benefits and excellent working conditions. The successful candidate would be part of a strong Mechanical team working alongside our machining and fabrication departments.
If you feel you have the skills and are looking for a new challenge then please get in touch on 07944 621099 or email CV to: kberry@Hayley247.co.uk
We look forward to hearing from you.
Kevin Berry - Operations Manager

BUTCHER - for high class butchers in Quarry Bank. Apply to Scriven Foods Ltd on 01384 569460.

employment wanted

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work.
Own van / tools
Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

warehouse & distribution

CRANE OPERATOR / WAREHOUSE PERSON

REQUIRED FOR BUSY STEEL STOCKHOLDER. CANDIDATE MUST HAVE EXPERIENCE WITHIN A SIMILAR ENVIRONMENT.

TO APPLY: POST C.V. AND COVERING LETTER TO: STUART JONES, JEAVONS COIL UNIT 2, SOVEREIGN WORKS, DEEPALE LANE, UPPER GORNAL, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY3 2AF

EXPERIENCED TAXI OFFICE OPERATOR
A reliable person required to take and pass bookings. Knowledge of local area and own transport would be an advantage.
Main hours Fri/Sat 17.00 - 01.00 £7.20p/h.
Additional hours available.
Waterfront Cars, Unit M, Office No 4, Woodside Industrial Estate, Pedmore Road, Dudley DY2 0RL
Email: ali.waterfrontcars@live.co.uk
Tel: 01384 78781 or 07956 285555

Waterfront Cars
Every mile best best service

PRE-SCHOOL ASSISTANT
Silverbells Pre-School - Dudley
Silverbells Pre-School based in Dudley offers high quality childcare and Early Years Education with a high commitment for safeguarding, to children between the ages of 2 - 4 years old.
Silverbells is seeking to recruit a committed Pre-School Assistant to join our team within a thriving pre-school to cover a period of maternity.
NVQ level 3 or equivalent qualification.
Please contact 07790512354 or silverbellspreschool@live.co.uk for an application.
Closing date 1st December 2016

BRIDGES LOTTERY FUNDED

New Year, New You!

Are you unemployed and 25 or over?

Want to become self-employed in 2017 but not sure how?

Call Amanda at Access to Business today for free advice, support and workshops on 01902 572 397
Email: Amanda@access2business.co.uk

This project is supported by The European Social Fund and the Big Lottery Fund

Express & Star

BE A LOCAL STAR

Sales Relationship Merchandiser

Do you have an eye for detail, are you self - motivated, enthusiastic and are able to communicate effectively and with confidence.

The Express and Star are looking for a sales relationship merchandiser to join our team helping to grow audience, strengthen the relationship with retailers, readers and ensure the brand experience is positive.

Working within a busy customer focused environment, the successful applicant will work as part of a team, in designated territories, you will be required to ensure that all our titles are available, in key strategic positions to maximise response and exposure.

Previous sales or merchandising experience in the FMCG market is desirable, but not essential. The ability to react quickly and positively to a wide variety of situations is required. A professional attitude must be displayed at all times. You must have a full current driving licence, transport will be provided.

In return we offer full training and support, an annual salary of £8,360.25 days holiday per year and enrolment into the company pension scheme.

The position is 20 hours per week worked across 5 days between Monday-Saturday, weekends and Bank Holiday working will be required on a rota basis.

If you would like to be considered for this role please send your cv and covering letter to: HR Department Midland News Association, Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES or by e-mail to: hr@mnamedia.co.uk

8 Motoring

cars over £1500

AUDI TT
1.8, Rare Automatic, leather interior, 06 reg, 69,000 miles, silver, very good condition, £4,400 ono. 01902 681469. 07971 912638.

FIAT PUNTO EVO 1.4 ACTIVE
2010, MoT April 2017, e/w, e/m, Bluetooth, CD player. £2,150 ono. 07538 750391.



FORD FIESTA

2014, 25,750 miles, one owner, immaculate condition, electric windows, A/C, MoT, Stereo and SYNC Bluetooth, CD, full size spare wheel, smoke and pet free.

£6,350

07904 200232



FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2005, 56,000 miles, silver, fully serviced, MoT, air con, heated windscreen, petrol.

£2,000 ono.

07943 388142.

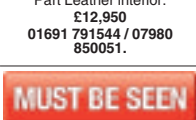


FORD KUGA 2012 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 4X4 AUTO.

Excellent Condition. MOT. FSH. Diesel. 5dr. 31,000 miles. Parking sensors. Alloys. Cruise Control. A/C. Part Leather interior.

£12,950

01691 791544 / 07980 850051.



JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL

Manual, 74,000 miles, 54 plate, immaculate, 54mpg, full cream leather interior, dark blue, MoT.

£2,650 o.n.o.

07948 146611.



LEXUS 450H AUTO HYBRID,

1 private owner, full MoT, all extras, 56 reg, £3,000 no offers. Genuine callers only.

07794 450416.

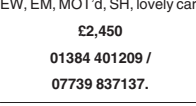


MAZDA 3 2.0 SPORT

55 Reg, 5-dr hatchback, red, black interior, 17ins alloy wheels, AC, radio / CD player EW, EM, MOT'd, SH, lovely car.

£2,450

01384 401209 / 07739 837137.



MAZDA 6 TS2

Petrol, manual, 2007, metallic grey, 70,000 miles, Just serviced at main dealer. MoT till June 2017. Showroom condition.

£2,750

07557 955398.



LUXURY MOTOR

NISSAN MURANO

DUAL FUEL 4X4

2005, Top of the range, leather, DVD, sat nav, reverse, cameras, towbar, MoT August 2017, 111,000 miles, some service history.

£2,250.

01902 276966.



MINI COOPER

2005, 72,000 Miles, Electric Blue, JCW Body Kit & 18" JCW Alloys, Chili Pack, MOT Aug 2017, Cat D, Recent new clutch, Panoramic Sunroof, Radio/CD.

£2,750 ono

07885 479560

NISSAN NOTE

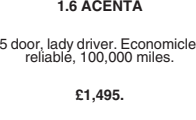
1.6 ACENTA

5 door, lady driver. Economical, reliable, 100,000 miles.

£1,495.

01902 747180.

07774 898966.



PEUGEOT 206 1.4

2006, 27,650 miles, metallic blue, electric windows, air con, alarm, MoT, one owner, alloys, stereo, excellent condition (only paint defect to rear panel)

£2,900 ono

07974 398260



RENAULT CLIO EXTREME 2009,

26,300 Miles, silver, 1149cc 2 door very good condition, full MoT, low insurance. £2,399 07879 403302

£2,399 ono

07974 398260



RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE

2006, 92931 Miles, Metallic Grey, lady owner, very good condition, abs, electric mirrors, air con, fsh, Alloys, CD, leather

£1,600

07957480534



TOYOTA YARIS 2008, 69,000

miles, Grey, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, long MoT, central locking, CD, £2,500 07939 238409.

£2,500 ono

07939 238409



TRIUMPH GT6

1971 Project. Genuine garage find, stored since 1989. Non runner, very little corrosion, 40,000 miles recorded.

Sensible offers please.

07853 456878.



BARGAIN

3dr, 56 reg, new shape, silver, 85,000 miles, service history, drives very nice.

£1,750.

01902 650894 or 07804 780221.



VAUXHALL INSIGNIA

2012, 88,000 miles, silver, SRi, 2 litre, 12 plate, 9 months MoT, auto, very economical, cruise/traction control, good spec. Value at

£6,995.

01902 895481.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.



BMA

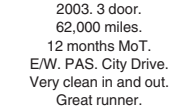
Est. Here 25 Years

20 Cars Under £1000 - No reasonable offer refused

Part EX Clearance Cars from £200

07956 988517

Dale Street, Bilston, WV14 7JY



FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE

2003, 3 door, 62,000 miles, 12 months MoT.

EW, PAS, City Drive. Very clean in and out.

Great runner.

£750.

07525 536767.

FIAT PUNTO Sport, 1.2, 03 reg, MoT July 2017, 52,000 miles, electric windows, good condition. £550 ono. 07956 615584.



GOOD RUNNER

FORD FIESTA 1.3 GHIA

P reg, MoT June 2017, CL, EW, radio cassette player

Good conditon.

£400.

07905 369663.



FORD FIESTA ZETEC

2003, 47,000 Miles, silver, MoT, New Clutch, 5 door, Must be seen to appreciate.

£750 ono

07768261696

FORD FOCUS 2001, black, 4dr, 1.8, 10 months MoT, FSH, EW, CL, alloys, £399, 07950 374966.

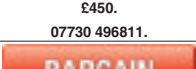


FORD KA 1.2 STYLE

05 Reg., MoT April 2017, 87,000 miles, service history bills £700, four owners.

£450.

07730 496811.



BARGAIN

Red, V Reg., one owner for last 15 years, 82,000 miles, good runner and reliable, 2 keys, service record and repairs receipts, new clutch 10,000 miles ago, needs floor/sill welding.

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or 07947 730149



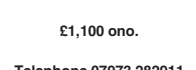
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JAGUAR X-TYPE

Grey, 2004, Full MoT, 65,000 miles. Petrol. Automatic.

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New brake pads. New Rad. New tyres all round.

Last serviced at 64,000 miles. A/C, CD player.

66,000 genuine miles.

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07581 113618.

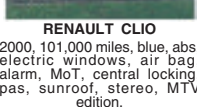


RENAULT CLIO

2000, 101,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, alarm, MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, stereo, MTV edition.

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07581 629541.



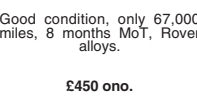
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Good condition, only 67,000 miles, 8 months MoT, Rover alloys.

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£900. o.n.o.

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or 07905 986682



IMMACULATE

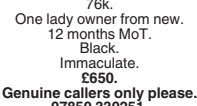
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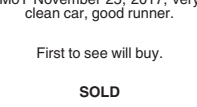
VAUXHALL CORSA

3dr, 2002, 41,560 miles, silver, MoT November 25, 2017, very clean car, good runner.

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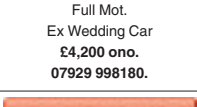
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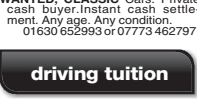
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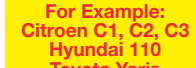
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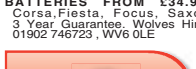
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RETIRE happy, caring, attractive female, likes gardening, travel, animals, comedy, seeks tall, funny, kind chap, Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411459

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3040 Box 422363

DONNA, 42, bright bubbly blue eyed blonde looking for someone to enjoy life and love to the full with. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424873

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any age, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

SUZANNA, 45, lovely beautiful classy French lady looking for happy decent reliable very sexy man for fun of TLC and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424847

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

SARAH, young looking curvy 41yr old female, bored with everyday routines, WLTm up for some fun discreet and extremely broadminded younger male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424827

Hi Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035

DEBBIE, 50, petite blonde looking for some fun and adventure with similar fun loving mature male. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424799

TARA, 35yrs, own business, well educated dark haired curvy lady. Independent with no ties seeks "normal" chap for mutual pleasure. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 424385

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told!) Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424783

Hi I'm Ellie, 39, pretty, funny, great figure, OHAC/child, have everything apart from a man, WLTm someone I wanna be with, not have to be. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424635

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTm chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 424543

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424781

MELINDA, 52yrs, attractive and broad minded seeking chap any age for some fun. Couples also. Text only Mailbox: 4131946

CALL or text me, I'm Claire, single, 41yrs loves life to the full, hoping you will contact me you will a genuine fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424779

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 408291

JOSIE, sexy black lady, 52yrs seeks adult times with concerning gent, any age, discreet clean, womanly figure. Text only Mailbox: 4028592

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424777

ANNABELLE, sophisticated 28yrs hoping to meet older gent for adult fun, discreet, sincere, genuine advertiser. Text only Mailbox: 4157105

JANE 40's, blonde blue eyed petite build, WLTm understanding discreet tall, caring man for daytime meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424769

ANDREA, 43, slim with long dark hair, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks romantic man to share intimate moments in or out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424747

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTm interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424675

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424673

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60, AOs, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424671

FEEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529

PROFESSIONAL lady, mid 60s, interests include gardening, theatre, walking, days out and travelling, animal lover, looking for a professional gentleman, kind and caring, intellectual and outgoing, with gosh, for friendship possibly more, in the Stafford area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424569

DIVORCED female, attractive, sensual by nature, OHAC, bored with own company, looking to make life a little more exciting with likeminded man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424591

PATRICIA, 50s, solvent female, tactile, fun, likes to travel, seeks tall, easygoing mature male to enjoy all the good things in life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424553

BARBARA, 36, slim blonde, likes music, sport, the outdoors, quiet nights in etc, WLTm tall honest gent to share interests and get to know me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424549

BABS, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424253

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424495

JULIE, 53yrs, tall, slim, dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving, new to the area so WLTm men friends for fun, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424497

SEXY brunette 39, petite, brown eyes, seeks energetic discreet guy for no strings fun and friendship. Age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424451

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TERRI, attractive young looking 29yrs, long legged sporty seeking nice man to fall in love with, up to 45yrs. If that's the you pls call, you have nothing to lose. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424377

SUSAN, 43, pretty green eyed brunette looking for an interesting attractive man who would understand my wicked sense of humour. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424381

JOY attractive Asian female 37, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, fall in love with, spoil, pamper and make feel very special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424255

WENDY, 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTm gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424339

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424263

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks a handsome male to be her Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261

Single Men

IAN, 5ft8, medium build, oho, late 50s, likes most things, holidays, gardening, motorbikes, with similar age lady, 50-60, with nice personality. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421345

TALL, 63 year old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291

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WIDOWER, 60s, GSOH, n/s, likes places of interest, country walks, cats and dogs, music, theatre and cinema, still looking for a lady, around 55-65, for companionship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424709

ATTRACTIVE, tall, dark, professional male, 50, GSOH, easygoing, enjoys sport, socialising, good company, looking to meet attractive female for fun, adventure and take things from there. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424563

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424687

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424685

MALE 50 seeks mature, homeloving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424683

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 43, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424681

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424679

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTm lady, 40-55 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424677

MALE 57, attractive, seeks mature woman any age for close fun, married or single. Text only Mailbox: 5410860

BLACK male, ex-marine, 6ft1, would like to meet a lady, 30 or over, if you would like a night in or out, Birmingham area, give me a shout. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424515

ADVENTUROUS 36 year old male, slim, dark hair, likes music, cycling and photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N. Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411

IAN, GSOH, 60, looking for someone to go out with and have a good time, a good laugh, and things will move on, I'm young at heart so looking for younger female if possible. NSA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424357

RETIRED male seeking companionship maybe more. No time wasters. Text only Mailbox: 5542315

ITALIAN male, 46, from Oldbury, Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424371

MALE, 59, 5ft2, looking for genuine lady 50-55, to share the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424353

TIM, young at heart, intelligent, fun loving, spontaneous, GSOH, WLTm a lady with a GSOH, for friendship and possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424395

ATTRACTIVE, Tall and intelligent Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. Text only Mailbox: 5561456

47 year old guy, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and long term relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424325

ANDY, single, 53, looking for a mature, sexy lady, age/looks unimportant, for fun and adventure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422893

NICE old fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, need some TLC in my life. Text only Mailbox: 4362854

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTm a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. Text only Mailbox: 5066605

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, oho, solvent, so get back if you're interested. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTm a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131

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Hugh Porter, Kristian Thomas, Sally-Ann Chambers, Sandra Hampton from Sport England and Anita Lonsborough



Active Black Country director Simon Hall



Deborah Williams delivers her speech



Suzy Richards and son Owen pick up their award

Pride as sports stars honoured with awards

SPORTING heroes from across the Black Country have been honoured at a special awards ceremony.

Scores of sports stars and clubs packed into the Showcase Cinema in Dudley for the annual Black Country and Physical Activity Awards.

In total there were eight awards handed out, including the Sports Personality of the Year – hotly contested by an Olympian and two Paralympians.

Gymnast Kristian Thomas, able-bodied cyclist Helen Scott and wheelchair tennis player Jordanne Whitley MBE – the latter two both from Halesowen – were all nominated. In the end it was Thomas, aged 27, from Wolverhampton, and the guest of honour on the night. It follows a stellar year, which saw him win two silver medals at the European Championships and compete in the Rio Olympics.

Ambassadors

The recently enrolled Wolverhampton University student, who trains in Halesowen but now lives in Wimblebury, Cannock, said: "I really was not expecting this. To be up against them when they're such good ambassadors for the Black Country and sport, it really is an honour. I am very proud to be representing the Black Country."

The night began with speeches and introductions from the host of the awards Active Black Country – the group set up to encourage active lifestyles for residents across the region.

Group chairman Deborah Williams told the audience it was 'great' to be able to 'recognise and celebrate the achievements of so many people and organisations'.

The first gong of the night was the Power of Sport award, set up to recognise those who have used sport to make a difference to others.

Akil Maylor, who established Rise up Yoga in a dis-

SPORTING FEATURE

Report by Jack Avery

"It really is an honour. I am very proud to be representing the Black Country." – Olympic gymnast Kristian Thomas

used shop on the Heath Town estate in Wolverhampton, took home the award to rapturous applause, beating Wendy Hall.

Mr Maylor's win was swiftly followed by the Community Club of the Year award, won by adult running group Stourbridge Mums on the Run.

Emma Barnes, who set the group up five years ago, said: "We were honoured to get the award. We are just a small recreational running group with 94 members including about 30 active on a weekly basis. We run some five times a week."

The loudest cheers of the night came for Suzy Richards and her son Owen as they collected the award for community project of the year after their Run for Joel event.

The event, set up in memory of Suzy's son and Owen's brother Joel who died in last year's Tunisia attacks, attracted some 1,100 runners and raised more than £27,000. Earlier in the day the family was at Worcester University collecting an honorary first degree for Joel.

Suzy said: "Can I thank everybody, every runner who attended, every volunteer and all the local businesses that have helped – and of course Sandwell Lei-

sure Trust? Joel was all about getting off the sofa, running, getting people into sports. He even tried to get me to do a few street runs."

"Last year was horrific for us, the community was ripped apart by it. Joel would have been 21 on August 3 and our aim was to do 21 events but we've smashed it and done 24 already."

Owen, 17, added: "We are really pleased with the win. It shows the support that everyone has given from the community."

One of the most hotly contested awards of the night was for aspiring talent, which saw 19-year-old Darlaston boxer Benjamin Whittaker edge out nordic skier Siobhan Pelow and 400-metre runner Ellis Greatrix.

Already in training for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with Team GB, Whittaker said: "It is an honour to win this award and hopefully I can become a role model and inspire more people into sport."

Battled

Sally-Ann Chambers, 47, from Cradley Heath, who was originally nominated for unsung hero of the year, lifted the glass trophy for coach of the year. She works at Midrange Netball Club in Tipton.

There were just two nominees in the school of the year category with The Streetly Academy in Walsall taking the honours over Dudley's Milking Bank Primary, with its 30 extra curricular clubs proving a decisive factor.

Headteacher Billie Downie said: "Sport changes lives but there are too many headteachers and schools who do not see the value of sport. Sport is such a positive influence on young people's lives."

Paul Gough beat off Paul Green and Glyn Marston in the unsung hero category. Gough has run Priory Amateur Boxing for some 20 years.

In a pre-recorded message he said: "We are going to do more in the community in the new year and hopefully we will keep benefiting the borough."

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Glassboys on FA Cup glory trail

Stourbridge 3 Whitehawk 0

STOURBRIDGE and FA Cup glory might have made familiar bedfellows in recent years but even by the recent standards of Gary Hackett's team, this was a special night.

A visit from League One Northampton Town on December 4 is what the Glassboys deserve, after a sensational performance to knock out Brighton's Whitehawk.

Luke Benbow's second-half brace, after Chris Lait had fired the hosts in front, sent Stour sailing into the second round for the sixth time in four years in front of a boisterous and ultimately jubilant 1,993-strong crowd.

Of all those excellent cup runs, this has been arguably the toughest with Hackett's team battling through five straight away games before Monday night's first round replay.

Whitehawk, who play one level above Stour in National League South arrived at Ambleside still smarting from the perceived injustice of Javier Favarel's "winner" – which came moments after the referee blew for full-time – in the first meeting nine games ago.

By the end of the night, the visitors could have no complaints. Driven on by the marvellous Lait, Stour recorded yet another fantastic win against higher-ranked opposition. Hackett made nine changes to the team which drew 2-2 at Spennymoor on Saturday, keeping his regular XI as fresh as possible.

Whitehawk were without Ross Flitney, the keeper having been sent-off at the end of the first game for his protestations. Spanish youngster Munoz replaced him.

Glassboys earned a creditable draw at high-flying Spennymoor thanks to goals from Stuart Pierpoint and Brandon Hague.

Yeltz show Blyth spirit but fight back ends in defeat

Blyth Spartans 4 Halesowen 3

BATTLING Halesowen Town went out of the FA Trophy despite coming back from two down.

The Yeltz took the game to their high-flying opponents after the break when they were two behind against a team who had already beaten them 5-0 at The Grove.

Nathan Buddle and Daniel Maguire had netted for the hosts in the first half but Jay Denny got the Yeltz back in it from 25 yards. Substitute Ethan Delaney turned the game on its head with two fine goals. But it was not to be as Matty Pattison levelled for Blyth and then grabbed a dramatic winner.

Blyth had applied the early pressure but Halesowen almost took the lead on 18 minutes when Buddle overhit a back pass to the Blyth keeper but it just went wide of the goal.

Asa Charlton had a goal ruled out for offside for Halesowen right on half time and the visitors could have nicked the tie on 86 minutes when Lee Chilton blasted over just yards from goal.

Girls team setting the standards



Under-13s captain Shannon Cook celebrates the Charter Standard award with team-mates

A GIRLS' football team has been recognised by the Football Association less than a year after it launched.

Rowley Wildcats was formed by Esne Malpass, who frustrated at the lack of opportunities for her daughter, decided to set up her own team.

The Wildcats already run four teams at different age groups and has been awarded the Charter Standard by the FA, an accreditation scheme run by the game's governing body which allows them to access more benefits.

To receive the recognition, the club had to pass a series of hurdles to make sure it was being run

Football

properly and all coaches were qualified and had undergone the relevant checks. Youngsters have come from all over the Black Country to be a part of the team. Training takes place at St Michael's High School in Curral Road, Rowley Regis.

Esne, aged 37, whose 12-year-old daughter Natasha plays for the under-13s team, said: "When it started there were that many girls who wanted to play. We've got girls coming from different areas; Great Bridge and Walsall. One girl comes from Brownhills."

PLAYERS KEEP IT IN FAMILY

IDENTICAL twins Alfie and Zac Jeavons-Fellows have grown up playing rugby together.

But the two brothers, who are on the books at Stourbridge RFC, never believed they would one day line up in the same team as their father Dickie – until the launch of a 'Return to Rugby' campaign.

The initiative encourages former players to dust off their boots and get back out on to the field. The scheme has been backed in full by Stourbridge, with chairman Robin Edwards also opting to get his knees dirty once again.

"Return to Rugby is a promotion by the RFU to get more people playing the game," Edwards said.

"It is primarily focused on youngsters aged 18 to 24 who go off to university and college and then stop playing the game as they enter adulthood.

"But it has also been set up to encourage older players back into the game. We hold sessions twice a week, on a Monday and Wednesday, that are specifically designed to encourage people to take part.

Boots

"So far we've attracted around 30 new members and we're keen to grow."

One of those members was Dickie Jeavons-Fellows, a former chairman at Stourbridge, who last played eight years ago but was convinced to put on his boots again as part of the scheme.

"I hadn't run out for quite a while but I didn't require too much encouragement when the Return to Rugby sessions started," he said.

Dickie ended up being asked to play for the club's Grasshoppers side in the back row against Wolverhampton in a match that also featured his two sons, watched by their grandfather, John Jeavons-Fellows, a former player, coach and chairman of Stourbridge as well as an RFU Council member and IRB representative.

And, in a game that Stourbridge won, all three family members scored tries.

"It was brilliant to play alongside him but also quite surreal," said Alfie, Stourbridge Colts captain, who played at scrum half. His brother Zac played at inside centre.



It's family affair – identical twins Alfie and Zac Jeavons-Fellows either side of their father Dickie

Jamie hits the double with second child

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was left holding the baby ahead of his Grand Slam of Darts debut in Wolverhampton on Saturday – after his second child arrived.

Hughes was the only Black Country player involved when the eight-day tournament began at the Civic Hall.

The only PDC tournament to formally invite players from

the BDO takes place for a ninth year with the 10th edition at the Civic until Sunday.

One BDO player will be in all of the eight four-man groups, with Hughes making the cut as he's ranked fourth with the organisation. 'Yozza' began his Group G campaign with a 5-3 defeat to James Wade, and went on to beat Dave Chisnall 5-1

and then was due to face James Wilson.

All this after the 30-year-old's second daughter, Perri Leigh, was born in the early hours of Friday.

Fiancee Jayne Breakspear brought her into the world at Russells Hall Hospital at 4.19am, weighing 6lbs 7oz. Mother and baby are both fine.

DK runners return to league action

IT WAS BACK to cross country action this week for Dudley Kingswinford Running Club, travelling to Leamington Spa to start their league campaigns.

The men compete in the Birmingham & District League and the ladies in the West Midlands League.

For the men it will be challenging. After gaining promotion as Division 3 champions they lost three of their major players of last season and a fourth of their big scorers was taking time off to recover from injury. It was left to last season's B team to step up.

Richard Bate was first home for the A team in 83rd place in 43.06, Dave Norman was 113th in 44.19, Darran Bishop was 123rd in 44.41, Rob Sannwald was 131st in 45.00, Simon Hughes was 136th in 45.28 and Daren Thompson completed the scorers in 137th in 45.32. Simon Blizzard led the B team home in 142nd in 45.38, Andy Sprague was 150th in 45.53, Mark Homer was 154th in 46.02, Steve Wood was 170th in 47.08, Mark Judge was 187th in 48.24, Richard Jones completed the B team in 215th place in 51.12 just holding off Sergej Ljubovnikov in 217th in 51.16. Andy Weaver came home in 52.59 for 238th place and John Andrews was 269th in 59.26.

Now the possibility of maintaining second division status isn't looking as unrealistic as it did.

The ladies were also competing in Division 2 of their respective league with Helen Tromans finishing in an impressive 32nd place in 27.48, Karen Doy was 83rd in 31.34 taking a 1-0 lead from her rival Lyn Sprague who came home in 98th in 32.38. Jacqui Elson-Whittaker was 125th in 34.44, Deborah Smith finished in 36.01 in 137th place, Lisa Haddington was 164th in 38.15, Cilla Harding was 179th in 40.36 and Sarah Krivosic was 203rd in 42.27.

Morris is Heathens' Rider of the Year

ASHLEY MORRIS was crowned Cradley Heathens' Rider of the Year as the club brought the curtain down on their 2016 campaign on Friday night.

Morris, 22, starred for the Motor Market Heathens throughout the campaign following his remarkable return to the club after a two-year absence.

The fans' favourite was given a special award to mark him making over 100 appearances for the Heathens alongside skipper Max Clegg. Morris said: "These trophies wrap up the year nicely."

Bradley Andrews claimed the award for Most Improved Rider after his determined displays over the campaign.

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